

British Values



At St. Joseph's, we celebrate and value the diverse backgrounds of our pupils and their families. In addition to this, our school's values work in harmony with Fundamental British Values, and, through our work on developing both aspects, we encourage pupils to consider them together. We nurture our pupils on their journey through life so they grow into caring, responsible and respectful adults who make a positive difference to British society and the wider world. We encourage them to be creative, open-minded and responsible individuals who care for others in our school, local community and beyond. We are committed to serving our community and local area; in so doing we reinforce Fundamental British Values regularly.



Democracy



Rule of Law



Individual Liberty



Respect & Tolerance

Democracy

Our school is a democracy for all its stakeholders. Therefore, staff and pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard. Staff drive self-improvement across the school and pupils (through the School Council, Mini Vinnies, Sports Leaders, Eco Council, Mental Health Champions and via pupil questionnaires) offer ideas and ways in which we can further develop all aspects of school life. Many of the decisions in class are made in consultation with the pupils; they are encouraged to have their say and their opinions matter. The elections for school council representatives and are based solely on pupil votes.

Pupils also learn about political and social institutions that affect their lives, including general elections. Furthermore, they learn about their responsibilities, rights and duties as individuals and members of different communities.

The Rule of Law

At St. Joseph's, we work to develop pupils' self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence so that they can distinguish right from wrong and respect the civil and criminal law of England. Rules are important in our school and we all have a shared responsibility for them. The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern a class, school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day by adults and pupils alike. Pupils are taught to value the reasons behind the laws and the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the police, fire service etc. are regular items in the school calendar and help to reinforce this message.

At the start of every year, all classes create their own Class Rules which are displayed in the classroom and pupils are expected to follow them throughout the academic year. Our school behaviour systems include rewards, certificates, golden time and green treat. There is also a place for sanctions which include spending time in 'reflection' which allows children to think about their behaviour and through discussions with staff, work out how to be the best versions of themselves.



Individual Liberty

Staff at St. Joseph's aim to educate and provide boundaries, within a safe environment, where pupils can make choices as well as take risks and know that making mistakes is part of the learning process and a valuable life skill. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their personal rights and freedoms whilst showing respect for the rights and responsibilities of others within our community. PSHE, on-line safety lessons and extracurricular opportunities help to educate the pupils in how to use their rights to have a positive influence on their own and others' lives. In addition to this, collective worship is used to both explore and support the school's vision, mission and values systems thus allowing pupils to investigate, manage and understand their how they can make independent choices and decisions that make a difference.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance to those of different faiths and beliefs

We celebrate and value our pupils and families of all faiths and cultures, we believe that all pupils should have a clear understanding of their place in society and should be given opportunities to experience this first hand.

Respect is a fundamental school value and we pay explicit attention to this as part of our teaching in RE, PSHE, SMSC and the wider curriculum. Our RE curriculum teaches all pupils about the Catholic faith and encourages them to have a deep understanding of their own faith as well as respecting and valuing the traditions and faiths of other world religions, including: Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Whilst actively promoting Fundamental British Values, we ensure that we challenge pupils, parents or staff views if they express opinions contrary to this.

Through celebrating and prioritising Fundamental British Values, we believe that throughout our pupils' time at St. Joseph's we aim to develop their ability to show initiative and understand how they can contribute to the wider community. We hope that our pupils will have the confidence to take risks and face the challenges of the future.

