

TEACHING BRITISH VALUES

Promoting British Values at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The DfE recently reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated in 2014. At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

Each year the children decide upon their class aims/charter/expectations which all the children contribute to. Once the copy has been finalised it is display prominently in the classroom and is referred to by teachers and children alike. .

We have a school council which meets monthly with the Head teacher to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council members have to apply to their class to be a councillor and have to present a *manifesto* to them. Each member of the class then votes for their preferred candidate. The two pupils receiving the highest amount of votes are then pronounced as the class councillors. They are presented with a badge during the celebration assembly so that all children in the school are aware who their councillors are. There is a display in the school hall with the names and photographs of the school councillors so that children can see them at lunch time and are familiar with who they are.

School councillors are can be called upon to perform a range of duties:

- Giving thanks to visitors to the school.
- Preparing and presenting information about any out of school visits they have made to represent the school.
- Spend time discussing behaviour issues with their class mates as part of the school behaviour policy.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country are consistently reinforced at St Joseph's.

Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. These are our School Rules, Playground Rules and Safety Rules (i.e. fire drill). Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

The whole school follows the same rewards practise of giving golden tickets for good or improved behaviour, good or improved work, etc. The pupils receive rewards when they meet milestone points on the rewards chart in the form of personalised school stationery. They collect these from the Head teacher who congratulates and praises their achievements.

Individual Liberty

At St Joseph's, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young people to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely. For example:

- Safer Internet Day to promote e-safety awareness at all times.
- PSHE and Circle time linked to the school's weekly ethos statement.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respects. All school staff, including mid day supervisors, and pupils are aware of the school's behaviour policy and follow the rules and expectations of these. Pupils and teachers alike respect the fact that this practise of two yellows and one red card is followed at all times and the correct procedure should be adhered to and followed.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

St Joseph's is a diverse school. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE (done through circle time) reinforces messages of tolerance and respect for others. Our multicultural display board in the Key Stage Two corridor illustrates our commitment to exploring a diverse community. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

Within school different projects and events are promoted throughout the year. The children who receive 100% attendance certificates for a term are then given a budget to buy gifts to support poorer children around the world. Their photographs are displayed on a board in Key Stage 2 corridor along with details of the gifts they have provided to help others.

At Christmas children contributed towards the Gianna project which supports families in deprived areas within the Catholic partnership cluster. Similarly The Good Shepherd appeal helps to raise money for people around the wider community area.