

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Our School Values and Ethos



*"Praying together, Learning for life,
Caring for all"*

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a very special place where each child is valued and cared for. Our mission reflects a passionate commitment to learning and an understanding and recognition of the uniqueness of individual learners. It is driven by our desire to provide an education of the highest quality within the context of our Catholic Faith and practice and in partnership with our parents. As a school we celebrate the diversity of the wider community and are committed to the principles of inclusion and equality of opportunity.

St Joseph's School is a vibrant community full of happy learners.

Our school Mission Statement permeates through everything that we do and every decision that we make at St. Joseph's.

As a Catholic School, St. Joseph's follows the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. At all times the staff, Governors and children are called to act as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ and the school has strong links with the parish of St Joseph's in the Diocese of Shrewsbury.

At St Joseph's we see the child as a special part of God's creation, with special gifts and talents. It is our aim to lead the child to promote his or her own learning and development, achieve high standards and have high expectations of themselves. Our responsibility is to help prepare the child to be a positive part of God's creation and a responsible member of society.



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Catholic Values

and British Values

The government set out its definition of 'British Values' in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011), which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalization of young people. British values are considered by the present government to be: democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. The promotion of 'British values' is central to Catholic education because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.



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The government has set out its definition of British Values as:

DEMOCRACY
THE RULE OF LAW
INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY
MUTUAL RESPECT
TOLERANCE OF THOSE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS



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St Joseph's is a Catholic school, which seeks to live out the values of Jesus Christ. We promote these values by our words and actions, and Catholic doctrine and practice therefore permeates every aspect of the school's activity. We provide a Catholic curriculum, which is rich, broad and balanced, recognising that every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (Gen 1; 27).

Our curriculum is designed to enable every pupil to discern their vocation and to be well equipped to follow it as active citizens in service to the world. Catholic Religious Education is the “core of the core curriculum” (Pope St John Paul 11) and the foundation of the entire educational process. We also provide a wide range of extra - curricular activities and strong pastoral support. We incorporate democratic principles, value the rule of law, support individual liberty and foster a community in which different faiths and beliefs are respected.



The table below shows how British values are incorporated into our Religious Education Scheme;

The Way, the Truth and the Life, incorporating Teaching of Other Faiths.

British Value	Resource	Example of British Values
Enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence	Book 3 pp 4-10 Book 5 pp 14-16 Book 5 pp 106- 107 Book 6 pp 81-83	Belonging to a family and also the family of the Church Our responsibility as stewards of the Earth; God’s personal gifts to us Enabling Catholic children to know and understand what they believe about their Catholic faith

		Becoming aware of our God-given gifts and reflecting on how we can use them to help others
Enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England	Book 3 pp 38-53 Book 4 pp 50-57 Book 5 pp 34-36 Book 5 pp 40-41 Book 5 pp 73-76	The great Commandment The teaching of Jesus The Ten Commandments The New Commandment What is sin & reflecting on the consequences
Enable the children to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely	Book 5 pp 66-67 Book 5 pp 73-76 Book 6 pp 12- 14; 18-28	Actions & consequences Being responsible for our behaviour Using our gifts to help others Know that we are called to work for justice and speak out against injustice
Enable the children to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England	Book 4 pp 100- 105 Book 5 pp 81-83 Book 6 pp 89-91	The Mission of the Church Forgiveness takes courage Many ways to serve others
Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling the children to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures	Book 3 pp 90-96 Book 5 pp 45-61 Book 6 pp 19-21 Book 6 pp 90-91	Being a Christian and loving one's neighbour To be a Disciple of Jesus & living the Beatitudes Striving for justice: the Himalayan villagers & refugees; Oscar Romero; Martin Luther King; Vivo Rio, long live our city Example of Annalena Tonelli in Africa and Sr Joan O'Callaghan in El Salvador, Peru
Encourage respect for other people	Book 3 pp 38-53 Book 4 pp 50-57 Book 4 pp 88-89 Book 6 pp 55-57	The great Commandment The teaching of Jesus The teaching of the Apostles

		Jesus washes the disciples feet – an example of thinking of the needs of others before our own
Using a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths	CD ROM Other Faiths Book 5 pp 104- 105	Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism & Buddhism What the Catholic Church teaches about other faiths
Accepting that people have different faiths or beliefs to oneself & that this should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour	CD ROM Other Faiths & Book 5 pp 104- 123	Examples of people of other faiths and that the goodness in the minds and hearts of these people is deeply respected by the Church Knowing that God's Holy Spirit has been at work in all religious traditions
Understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law	CD ROM Other Faiths & Book 5 pp 104- 123	The gift of God's grace is absolutely free and available to everyone



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At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, British values underpin the school ethos and are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy



Democracy is an explicit part of our school ethos. The staff are our greatest asset and their opinions are encouraged and valued as are those of our children. Elections are held for members of the School Council and other key roles. These opportunities, teach children about democratic processes including the importance of voting and respecting the result of the majority.

The children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through elected members of the School Council, decisions they make as a class group or votes. Through our curriculum, school ethos and values, the children are given the tools, skills and empathy to resolve problems peacefully with their peers as well as circle time opportunities, class reflections, assemblies and Mass times, Key Stage and Whole School assemblies. Everyone has a valuable contribution to make and all voices should be heard and respected.

The Rule of Law

Through our school ethos and values, the staff teach the children the importance of following a code of conduct and therefore the importance of Laws regardless of whether they are laws governing the class, our school or the country. We do this through our curriculum, school Behaviour Policy, PSHCE Curriculum, assemblies, class and whole school worship. The children are expected to behave in an exemplary manner at all times both inside and outside of school.

Classes have the opportunity to take part in Citizenship Ceremonies, have visits from the Mayor, local councilors and MP's. We visit the Town Hall and Parliament. We also welcome visits from the Police, Fire Service and our Parish Priest, which all help reinforce the message. When school rules are broken children are encouraged to consider who has been affected, to take responsibility for their actions, say sorry and make amends and also to forgive and start again. Pupils discuss the reasons behind these rules and the responsibility that they have to abide by the rules by making the right choice. Pupils understand that rules are made to protect us. All pupils understand that there are consequences for breaking rules and they know the school sanctions.

Individual Liberty

The school provides a safe and secure environment for the children and encourage the children to make their own choices from the Nursery onwards, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive and nurturing environment. We are encourage the children to understand their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. E safety is a key issue in schools and the children are taught

how to make on line choices in a safe manner. KS 2 children are made aware of the dangers of social networking. In line with our school ethos and values, we teach children how to be considerate of the feelings and needs of others through the RE and PSHCE curriculum. We support the children in challenging stereotypes, and how to act appropriately to support our anti bullying policy. All our school activities are inclusive and encourage the children to be self disciplined.

Mutual Respect

At St Joseph's, our school ethos and values are based around the Gospel Values, which demand each of us to show love and compassion to others. Our Christian values of respect and tolerance permeate all areas of school life. As a school community, we treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through our school rules and our daily conversations, expectations and interaction with each other. At weekly celebration assemblies pupils are recognised not only for good work but also, for kindness and respectful behaviour. We teach the children that behavior has an affect on others and that only behaviour that reinforces respect and tolerance is accepted. Our values are permeate throughout our newsletter, displays, curriculum, website and all we do in the wider community.



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Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs.

The Gospel Values permeate through our life at St Joseph's. Through our curriculum and wider life of the school, the children understand that we live in a richly diverse society and this is to be celebrated. Our school ethos and values celebrate a rich and cultural diversity through our RE lessons, Masses, Assemblies, Collective Worship, PSHECE and Curriculum activities.

The Way, the Truth and the Life RE scheme of work incorporates a knowledge and understanding of different faiths. Parents of different faiths are welcomed in to school to explain to the children their belief and culture. Visits to other places of worship and visitors from other faiths are welcomed. We have an annual celebration of other cultures where we hold a service celebrating in worship, song and prayer the diversity of other nations followed by a shared table of international food.

We have a strong social conscience of those less fortunate than ourselves and raise thousands of pounds every year to support Cafod and The Valley of the Moon Nursery in Bolivia.

Our children are secure in the knowledge that if they have any concerns about issues relating to themselves or

others they can raise those concerns and know that as a school, we would challenge any children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to British Values.

“Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God”



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