



British Values at St Pancras Catholic Primary School

As a Catholic school, our ethos is based on the teachings of Jesus and Gospel Values. We promote love, peace, forgiveness, compassion, mercy, equality, justice, humility and service through what we say, what we do and how we treat each other in school and others in the wider community. We recognise the importance of not only helping pupils to grow academically, but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens in the 21st Century.

“ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is to ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ (Matthew 22:37-39)

The Department for Education state that there is a 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.”**

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Each year the children decide upon their class rules and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the class rules.

Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and regular pupil voice questionnaires. The elections of the School Council, Eco Council and House Captains are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. The school council meets every two weeks to discuss issues raised in class, through pastoral care or through the class suggestion box.

Children have an annual questionnaire from the Headteacher in which they are able to put forward their views about the school.

The Rule of Law

Our school has rules and values which are deeply embedded in our work every day. Each class also discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our pupils are taught; the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Our ‘Sun and Clouds’ system is used in the Foundation Stage and KS1 classes for behaviour management. Children are asked to identify which aspect of the class rules they have broken to ensure that this connection is made and understood. We have a whole school values tree which celebrates children demonstrating our school values.

Visits from and to authorities such as the police, fire service, lifeguards and paramedics are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce an understanding of this value.

Individual Liberty

Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and P.S.H.E. lessons. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices for example by signing up for extra-curricular clubs or choosing how they will record their work. Each class takes part in an enterprise activity once a year and the children choose how to raise money and also select the charity the money will go to.

Mutual Respect:

“Treat others how you expect to be treated”, is based on respect. This is one of the core values of our highly inclusive school and pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have. Values are highly visible around the school and can be seen in class, on displays and our values tree. There are frequent opportunities in the curriculum, in assemblies and during playtimes to discuss differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability and gender.

Respect and Tolerance:

St Pancras Catholic Primary School supports pupils' understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education studies, P.S.H.E. work and participation in a range of celebrations and in depth study during themed weeks including our World Faith Weeks. We help children to acquire an understanding of and respect for their own and other cultures and ways of life e.g. through Geography, International Links and Religious Education. Through class topics and events such as Fair Trade Fortnight the school focuses on global issues and each class specifically focuses on one country.