



British Values Mission Statement

At St John's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to promoting British Values in line with the recommendations set out by the Department for Education. In 2011 the government set out its definition of British Values which are:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At St John's, Catholic Social Teaching is at the heart of our school and it forms a perfect relationship with the British Values we promote. Our aim is that our pupils are fully prepared for society in Britain and to be able to take responsibility for the role they play in contributing to the **Common Good**. The Catholic Social Teaching themes are:

1. Dignity of the Human Person
2. Family and Community
3. Solidarity and the Common Good
4. Rights and Responsibilities
5. Options for the poor and vulnerable
6. The Dignity of Work
7. Stewardship

Within this, British Values are taught at a deeper level, understanding what is it to live a good life and follow our School Mission statement to 'learn and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.' In doing so we reinforce British Values regularly in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democratic values are an intrinsic part of St. John's ethos. Adults listen to children's views and value their opinions. Pupils have the opportunity for their voices to be

heard through the School Council (Helping Hands) and Pupil Voice, which contributes to staff appointments and subject reviews. UK parliament week and visits from UK parliament provide pupils with the understanding and importance of democracy. Children are also represented in our local Youth Parliament. The school regularly demonstrates how pupils should contribute and cooperate as well as considering the views of others. Children are taught that everyone's opinions are valued and we come together in **Solidarity for the Common Good** of our world.

Rule of Law:

The importance of rules and laws are consistently reinforced every day at school, through the use of our behaviour policy. Teachers have high expectations for pupil's behaviour and are role models for this. We follow the Restorative of Justice where children can talk about any problems that have occurred with each other and come to a resolution. Pupils are taught the values and reasons behind rules and laws within their class, school and country and the consequences when a rule or law is broken. Visitors, such as the Police and Fire Brigade help to reinforce the messages we teach of right and wrong. Pupils understand that to enhance **Human Dignity**, laws must respect every human being, no matter where they are in their lives, but this extends further into our sacred world we live in too- **Stewardship**.

Individual Liberty:

Pupils are encouraged to make their own choices within a safe environment at our school. The school helps pupils to develop self-knowledge and self-confidence to make more choices for themselves, especially within their own learning and behaviour. Through PSHE and E-safety lessons, children are taught ways they can safely make choices for themselves, by also be considerate of others around them. Children learn that they have **Rights**, for example, a right to a clean home. However, with rights, come **Responsibilities**, especially to the **Common Good**, by helping those more unfortunate to have the same basic human rights as them, including a fair wage for work, which pupils learn about through Fairtrade week- **The Dignity of Work**. Through Religious Education lessons, pupils also learn about our responsibility of **Stewardship** and taking care of our Earth that God created us.

Mutual respect:

Values of respect and tolerance are at the heart of our mission and are evident in all areas of school life. All staff demonstrate respect and model behaviour and attitudes on which our positive relationships are built. Class discussions, assemblies and collective worship provide opportunities to show respect and reverence to others. The widespread collaborative work undertaken in lessons help value others' opinions. Children learn that no matter where you are from or what you look like, we are all part of God's **Family and Community**. Pupils understand that we are all brothers and sisters, working together for the **Common Good**. Some of our children have

chosen to be anti-bullying ambassadors, who help and support children around the school within our **Family and Community**.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Through our curriculum and spiritual life of the school, pupils are made aware of our culturally diverse society. The school community is rich in its diversity and other religions are studied within Religious Education. As part of our core values regardless of ability, faith, heritage or race, pupils often take the initiative in fundraising for many different charities that they feel passionate about, supporting the **Poor and Vulnerable** people in need, whilst showing **Solidarity** for the **Common Good**.