Promoting British Values at St John the Baptist

Schools have obligations under section 78 of the Education Act (2002) which requires schools, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society. In addition, schools are required to actively promote fundamental British values

At St John the Baptist's we think it is essential that our pupils develop a strong set of values and principles, and that they question and understand what it means to grow up in British society. Through a rich and challenging curriculum, we invite pupils to reflect upon their role in a diverse, multicultural and multi faith society.

In discussing what it means to be British, our children engage critically with stereotypes and prejudices. They also develop an understanding of how we can celebrate our heritage and home cultures whilst also embracing the ties that bind us together.

Our school is enriched by the faith of our school community, and we teach a Religious Education curriculum that focuses on Catholicism but also teaches pupils about the beliefs and practices of all major religious groups, and indeed the shared values that religion can promote in synchrony with core British values. Our Catholic Social teaching is taught through our 'Caritas in Action Scheme'.

"It calls us to all work for the common good, help build a just society, uphold the dignity of human life and work for justice and the dignity of all our brothers and sisters, especially those in the greatest need."

In addition, we have a dynamic PSHE scheme of work 'One Decision' which fully supports the core British Values.

Our core British Values are:

democracy; individual liberty; the rule of law; mutual respect; tolerance of those with different faiths and belief.

Each is defined below and placed in a school context through the use of examples.

1. DEMOCRACY

Democracy can be seen as a state of society characterised by equality of rights and privileges. It can also refer to our nation's electoral systems. Respect for democracy and democratic participation is encourage. We aim to provide our pupils with many opportunities to take part in democratic decision making.
At St John's:

- We have an active school council chosen by pupils
- We highlight the development of democratic ideas in history lessons
- Pupils have the opportunity to vote for school councillors and pupil of the year
- We ensure all pupils are listened to by adults. Our class 'ask it baskets' enable children to share their worries and choose who they would like to talk to
- We invite speakers to the school – E.g. Knights of St Columba, Rotary Club, CAFOD, Local Member of Parliament

2. INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

Individual liberty suggests the free exercise of rights generally seen as outside Government control.
At St John's:

- We increase the liberty afforded to pupils as they move up through the years. Y6 pupils have many roles and responsibilities that reflect their maturity and responsibility.
- We offer a profusion of extra-curricular activities and clubs, including extended studies.
- We encourage pupils to be independent in their learning.
- Children have key roles and responsibilities in school. E.g. school councillor, gift team, seeds and gardeners, eco-warriors, house captains, corridor monitors and sports leaders
- As a school we educate and provide boundaries for children to make choices safely.
- We provide pupils with opportunities for reflection as they take responsibility to discerning their vocation. Our gift team lead prayer and worship that other children

can choose to join in with. We also provide opportunities to celebrate and develop talents through music lessons, assemblies, annual talents show and prize day.

3. THE RULE OF LAW

All people and institutions are subject to and accountable to law that is fairly applied and enforced. The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country are constantly explained and reinforced in class and during assemblies. Children are taught to respect the need for laws and how the law is applied in England.
At St John's:

- Our school mission statement, Love One Another, plays an integral role in our behaviour management and is regularly shared and celebrated with our children. It underpins everything we do.
- Our behaviour curriculum clearly identifies rules and sanctions and identifies 7 key virtues that are taught throughout the year. Green Dojos and House Points are rewards for good behaviour, effort and work. Red Dojos are given when school rules are broken
- We have a clear behaviour policy that is explained to all, and our weekly VIP is someone who has embraced our rules.
- We organise visits from the emergency services to reinforce the message of right and wrong.
- We highlight the rules of the Church and the Gospel Values through our behaviour curriculum and our mission statement. The teachings of Jesus are clearly identified on our behaviour planning sheets.

4. MUTUAL RESPECT

Mutual respect is the proper regard for an individual's dignity, which is reciprocated. Our PSHE curriculum embodies values of mutual respect through units of learning such as relationships and being a responsible citizen.
At St John's we:

- We have a mission statement that is inclusive to all, and our 'Caritas in Action Scheme' themes include 'Dignity of Work and Rights and Responsibilities.
- Our PSHE scheme of work is One Decision. The scheme

- We constantly promoting respect for others through our mission statement – 'Love one Another.'
- We reinforce the value of everyone's opinions in class debates.
- We have an effective behaviour policy.
- We emphasise in RE and PSHE lessons that every person is unique and "created in the image of God". In our religious lessons we embed the CARITAS values that we all have a responsibility to look after God's world and we are all connected.
- We regularly support local, national and worldwide charitable works- CAFOD, St Joseph's penny, Samaritan's Purse and respond readily to a global crisis.

.5. TOLERANCE OF THOSE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS.

We aim to develop a fair, objective, and permissive attitude to those whose faith and beliefs may differ from one's own and actively promote respect and tolerance for people of different faiths and beliefs.
At St John's

- Our Governing body incudes a faith representative.
- Our 'Caritas in Action Scheme' focuses on social injustice both in our country and other countries around the world. It aims to help pupils be better equipped to address all aspects of human life, decision making, both personally and as a community, with a mind and conscience based and formed by Catholic Social Teaching.
- We highlight how Religious Education provides pupils with a deep understanding of their own faith as well as awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as a basis for understanding and respecting them.
- Our PSHE lessons and behaviour curriculum focus on tolerance of other people and tackles issues like discrimination, racism and prejudices.
- Through theme weeks we help pupils to acquire a respect of their own and other cultures and ways of life. We encourage trips to other places of worship and readily welcome visitors from other faiths.
- We show how Jesus encouraged tolerance and asked us to 'Love on Another'.
- We encourage pupils to participate in a wider range of events and provide opportunities for pupils to serve the wider community to nurture tolerance and harmony.



St John the Baptist RC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Kathleen McKeating

