



British Values in our School Curriculum

The Department for Education (2014) stated 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.*”

The Government originally set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. These values fall into the following broad areas:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School we base our school values on the teachings of the Catholic Church and the promotion of Gospel values which are important to every aspect of the life of the school. This focus on the Gospel values gives our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today leading a successful and productive life.

Our Gospel values are rooted in the Beatitudes, the proclamation of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount: ‘Blessed are...’ Whilst not definitive, the core values based on the Beatitudes are:

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”

Value: **Dignity and Compassion**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

Value: **Faithfulness and Integrity**

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”

Value: **Humility and Gentleness**

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”

Value: **Forgiveness and Mercy**

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God”

Value: **Purity and Holiness**

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God”

Value: **Tolerance and Peace**

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven”

Value: **Service and Sacrifice**



Promoting British Values at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

Democracy

At St John the Baptist School we provide children with the skills and opportunities to make informed decisions to elect members as class councillors. They share their class' views on different topics or issues at the half-termly School Council meetings where can make a real difference as they can express their views and are listened to. We also include in the curriculum information on the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain.

The Rule of Law

At St John the Baptist School we encourage children from an early age to contribute to their classroom rules and help pupils to distinguish right from wrong. We ensure school rules, playground rules, E-safety rules and dinner rules are clear and fair and that children understand the reasons for having them. Our children learn that living under the rule of law protects individuals and they develop approaches focused on reconciliation and justice to resolve conflicts. We teach children aspects of both civil and criminal law and discuss how this might differ from some religious laws and how there are consequences when laws are broken.

Individual Liberty

At St John the Baptist School we support pupils to develop their self-esteem and self-confidence by encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights. We have a strong anti-bullying culture which is explained in our Anti-Bullying and Behaviour policies. Our Jigsaw PSHE and E-Safety lessons also cover how to make choices and understand their rights within a safe and caring environment.

Mutual respect

At St John the Baptist School we believe everyone should be treated with respect and kindness, from the youngest member of our school to the oldest. This is an important part of our Catholic faith and is at the heart of our learning culture. We teach children to live as Jesus would have and to know that God loves us all equally.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At St John the Baptist School we help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life through the curriculum, especially during RE lessons and our Jigsaw PSHE lessons. We teach about other cultures and religions and have links with a school in Sri Lanka to help support this on a global scale. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths and respect the views of the communities within these settings.