



## **British Values at Saint John's Catholic Primary School.**

At St. John's Catholic Primary School we actively promote Christian values, virtues and ethics that shape our children's character and moral perspective based on the Gospel values and teaching of the Catholic Church. Our school motto is, '**To Love and to Serve one another.**' We take very seriously our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain. We ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of the school.

All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts and, in particular, our Religious Education; Collective Worship; and RSE lessons provide excellent opportunities to deepen and develop understanding.

The school makes considerable efforts to ensure children have exposure to wider experiences beyond their local community, through for example, sporting events, a range of visits and visits to places of worship. There are active Pupil Voice Groups representing the voice of the pupils; these are School Council, Eco Team and Catholic Life Committee. We are proud to work with a range of other providers to enrich our children's learning experiences.

The children's strong rooted values-based understanding gives them an excellent platform to embrace difference and grow into being positive, responsible contributors to modern British society.

### **Mutual Respect and the Tolerance of those with different Faiths and Beliefs:**

Respect is a fundamental school value, around which pivots much of the work of the school. We pay explicit attention to this as part of our RE, Collective Worship, and RSE curriculum.

Respect is discussed deeply, starting with self-respect and covering respect for family, friends, and our Christian, Catholic, faith and extending to respecting the faith of others and to people of no faith at all.

### **Democracy:**

The children at St. John's see democracy borne out in a whole variety of ways and as an essential component of successful team working. Democracy is a school value that children meet when discussing respect and fairness. It is lived out in many aspects of class decision-making as a fair means of gathering agreement. The History Curriculum in KS2 covers democracy and law.

### **Rule of Law:**

Children are familiar with the concept (through discussion of values and in RE lessons) that different religions have guiding principles, in our school context, the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. Children are used to discussing laws/rules and they participate in establishing class rules and in discussions about school rules. Children in Year 6 take part in the annual Young Citizens event with emergency services. The Fire Service and Police visit the school as part of our Citizenship and Safeguarding curriculum.

### **Individual Liberty:**

Our Values based discussions and acts of worship begin with discussion about the self, e.g. self – respect and self-worth in relation to an individual's intrinsic value. Children are encouraged to reflect that they are unique and special in their own right. The philosophy of our teaching and learning places emphasis on the right to have our own thoughts and evidence based views.

Children are strongly encouraged to develop independence in learning and to think for themselves and to appreciate the responsibility that is intrinsic to this freedom.

*At St. John's Catholic School we are committed to serving our community, our local area and beyond by promoting 'Catholic Social Teaching'. We are able to make real links between the values of our pupils and the lives of others and in doing so we reinforce British values regularly and in a meaningful way.*