



The Newman Catholic Collegiate

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy



British Values Statement

The government set out its definition of 'British values' in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011), which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalization of young people. British values are considered by the government to be:

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

"We are proud that Catholic schools promote values that are both Catholic and British, including: respect for the individual, democracy, individual liberty, respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. Our schools promote cohesion by serving more ethnically diverse and poorer communities. Catholic schools provide high standards of education which are popular with parents from all social, economic and faith backgrounds."

Paul Barber (Catholic Education Service 15 December 2014).

At St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy we provide an education that focuses on the formation of the whole person and on our vocation and purpose in life. We are guided by our mission statement 'Lord, thy word be my rule' and by the Christian values of vocation and service, respect, compassion, co-operation and stewardship as we reflect on our place and purpose in the world.

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed *British values* at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list. At St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy we recognise, not only the importance of helping pupils to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the Common Good of all.

At St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy we are committed to serving our community and local area. In so doing we reinforce British values regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

The school values the pupils' voice so we ask them about their learning, their concerns and for their ideas about how we can make things better for them. We do this by using pupil questionnaires and through our School Council. At the start of each year, pupils vote for their class representatives through an election process.

The Rule of Law

The pupils understand the school rules and what happens if these rules are broken. At the start of each year, classes discuss class rules and agree a charter to abide by. During lessons and assemblies pupils learn about the importance of having rules and how these relate to laws. We use a range of resources to promote moral, spiritual, social and cultural awareness among our pupils. Our pupils have a well-developed sense of justice. They understand and are able to discuss why there needs to be consequences for those who break the rules or laws. By being immersed in the ethos of the school, our pupils learn about their responsibility to be law abiding citizens.

Individual Liberty:

Pupils within St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We encourage pupils to see themselves as unique individuals able to make a unique contribution to building community. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through discussions of E-Safety and whole school responsibilities. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others through our Religious Education curriculum and PSHE lessons in particular.

Mutual Respect:

Pupils and staff alike model respect. The school promotes respect for others and this is reinforced through assemblies, our classroom and learning environments as well as extra-curricular activities such as sport. Our school's ethos and behaviour policy are based on Gospel values, with the important commandment being, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. In line with our commitment to democracy, pupils are always able to voice their opinions as we foster an environment where they can debate ideas and are safe to disagree with each other. We encourage pupils to communicate honestly and openly and to understand the value of co-operation and consensus as well as decision making through voting. Our emphasis on fairness and justice means that we ask our pupils to ensure that they look out for those who might be marginalised and disadvantaged. We work hard to promote anti-bullying through a focus on strategies to enable respect for difference and tolerance.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Our ethos at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy is based on care, mutual respect and good manners. Adults actively model respect with one another - and with the pupils - in how we speak to and treat one another. Our school is a diverse community and through the RE curriculum we promote an awareness of different faiths. We also encourage our pupils to recognise and understand these faiths. Our pupils naturally show tolerance for others and have a curiosity to find out and understand cultures and faiths that are different from their own. All staff model a tolerant and accepting attitude. We use assemblies to raise and discuss issues of bullying and prejudice and reinforce learning during curriculum time.

At St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy, we will actively challenge pupils, parents or staff who express opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including extremist views.

British Values through the Curriculum

Interwoven within the curriculum in a range of curriculum areas are planned opportunities to teach the values of our society. Some examples are

- **History:** How we influence democracy is explored through the curriculum and assemblies. This includes looking at historical figures such as Nelson Mandela and Gandhi and exploring the effectiveness of different approaches. The Rule of Law and the importance of laws, whether they be

those that govern the class, the school, or the country is consistently reinforced at St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy. Britain and its influence in modern times are aspects woven into our imaginative learning projects. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, whilst understanding that with exercising their rights comes responsibility.

- **Geography:** We ensure that pupils have a better understanding of what Britain is; learning more about its capital cities and counties, its rivers and mountains, and where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world.
- **Music:** The study of British composers and their global influence.
- **Art:** The study of how British artists influence others around the world.
- **Religious Education:** Gaining a greater understanding of religious diversity and practices which covers key religions represented in the UK. All pupils have the opportunity to visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy actively promotes diversity through celebrations of different faiths and cultures.
- **Physical Education:** Promotion of the concept of "fair play", following and developing rules, inclusion, celebrating and rewarding success, being magnanimous in defeat and participation in activities that promote kinship and affiliation with others.
- **Computing:** Pupils are also taught about respect and bullying in the online world through our learning platform and through regular e-safety lessons.
- **School Council:** Promotion of democratic processes, fostering the concept and application of freedom of speech and group action to address needs and concerns. Key to this is the concept of holding others to account, including those in positions of influence and authority.
- **Educational visits:** Our broad range of educational visits and experiences outside of the classroom equips our pupils with the skills to make a positive contribution to their community as equal citizens, as well as being able to look at British heritage in more depth.
- **Community Events:** We work closely with charities and organisations such as 'The British Legion', CAFOD. We encourage our pupils to interact with pupils from other schools, both locally and further afield, through organised activities.