

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Ethos and Values

Our ethos and mission statement is embedded through our daily school and religious life. Our mission statement is:

'Faith in Growing, Growing in Faith'

Our Vision

We are a family and are proud of all we achieve.

As a Catholic school, the Gospel values permeate and can be clearly seen in all that we do with the children in our care at the heart of all our endeavours. The school as a Catholic community embraces the key components of what it means to live a Christian life: Welcome, Worship, Word, Welfare and Witness, using these as a way of being a community and living the mission of the Church. Families of all faiths are welcome in our school and we find many send their children to us because they see the value in the Catholic ethos we provide. We recognise the benefits of collaborative and community work and seek to develop a more Christ centred society through our links with the local parish community.

There is a clear sense of belonging for children, their families, staff, governors and other members of the community. All members of the school community are confident, relaxed, happy and engaged in their own and other's development recognising individual's talents, gifts and achievements. Staff ensure pupils are stretched by consistently good practice and pupils grow academically, spiritually and socially.

We aim:

- To provide the best and most memorable experiences for the children we serve;
- To help them to achieve high and to aspire to ever greater heights;
- To give them the skills to build on and expand their knowledge and understanding of a rapidly changing world;
- To prepare them for life in modern Britain and the global society beyond;
- To inspire in our children a lifelong love of learning;
- To foster in them the imagination, independence, confidence and resilience to deal with life in a positive and productive way;
- To maintain high standards of behaviour and high expectations where everyone feels respected.
- To help them grow and learn together in the knowledge that they are loved by God.

We aim:

- To ensure our academic and spiritual learning environments are of the highest quality
- To foster a 'learning community' for all
- To provide a place where all feel safe and valued
- To create a space where God's vision is realised to benefit all
- To honour God through our actions

St. Joseph's School Values

Witnessing to the Word of God is threaded throughout the life of our Catholic school family. The Gospel Values are lived out through our eight School Values.

LOVE	PRAYER	PRIDE	FAMILY
A willingness to be a kind person to everybody, no matter what.	A willingness to put our lives in the hands of God.	A willingness to take pleasure in everything we do.	A willingness to look out for and support others in any way we can.
<i>This means LOVING others by welcoming and including them as friends.</i>	<i>This means requesting help or expressing thanks to GOD.</i>	<i>This means striving to achieve our very best and take PRIDE in doing so.</i>	<i>This means we are all EQUAL and UNITED in our community.</i>
RESPECT	INTEGRITY	LEARNING	RESILIENCE
A willingness to look after ourselves, others and our environment.	A willingness to be honest in what we say and do.	A willingness to ensure we learn something new every day.	A willingness to do your best and not give up.
<i>This means we have regard for the feelings, wishes or rights of others.</i>	<i>This means being truthful, trustworthy and responsible.</i>	<i>This means using every moment to develop our knowledge and skills.</i>	<i>This means persevering to make COURAGEOUS CHOICES.</i>

British Values at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Our school promotes and upholds the British Values of Democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance as well as Christian Values including faith, love, forgiveness, responsibility, service, trust and unity.

This is a Catholic school which seeks to live out the values of Jesus Christ. We promote these values by our words and deeds, and Catholic doctrine and practice therefore permeates every aspect of the school's activity. We provide a Catholic curriculum, which is broad and balanced, recognising that every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (Gen 1:27). Our curriculum is designed to enable every pupil to discern their vocation and to be well-equipped to follow it as active citizens in service to the world. Catholic Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" (Pope St John Paul II) and the foundation of the entire educational process. We also provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities and strong pastoral support. We incorporate democratic principles, value the rule of law, support individual liberty and foster a community in which different faiths and beliefs are respected.

An understanding of democracy is developed through our school's School Council. Elections are held at the start of the year when, following a vote, each class elects a two Members of the School Council. The school council meets at least once a month to bring to the table any issues or ideas from their constituents. In addition, they are consulted about their ideas for school improvement and in policy making.

An understanding of the rule of law is developed through class discussions around the rights and responsibilities of the pupils. This informs relationships and behaviour in school. Based on four central rights, children have discussed and compiled the responsibilities they

will be held accountable for. This shapes classroom and school rules and supports our Behaviour Policy.

An understanding of civil liberty (freedom of speech, freedom of movement, freedom of assembly, freedom of association and freedom of religious worship) is developed through pupil voice, pupil choice and pupil influence in the curriculum and in all aspects of school life.

An understanding of respect and tolerance is developed through our school ethos, our mission statement and our rights and responsibilities. Respect is one of our core values which has been discussed in depth.

Other values are developed through Collective Worship, class assemblies and PSHE sessions when we promote and discuss the areas of:

- **Democracy**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **Rule of Law**
- **Respect**
- **Tolerance**

At St Joseph's school we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils' character and moral perspective through the teachings of the Church. We are confident that our continued focus on the Gospel Values will give our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good Catholic citizen in Britain today and embed in them the building blocks of a future life that is both successful and productive.

Diocesan Values and Virtues

As a Diocese, we have adopted the Jesuit 'Virtues tree' which visually and aurally supports the Christian values taught and shared daily. Each half term, we focus on two different virtues, from our tree, to explore and discuss.

