



BRITISH VALUES

Mission Statement

At St George's Catholic Primary School, we welcome everyone as a member of God's family. With Jesus in our hearts, we pray together, we work together, we show respect for each other and the world around us. We love God, ourselves and one another.

Our vision commits us to focusing on each child as a member of God's family. To do that, our school has to concentrate on first understanding and then developing each individual child's unique nature and potential. This must include his or her personality and attitudes, likes and dislikes, academic potential, speed of development, special needs, and particular gifts or talents.

As a Catholic school, with the help of our families, our parish and our local community, we will do our best to use the gifts that God has given us to make our world a richer place.

St George's promotes British Values, ensuring our children leave school prepared for life in modern Britain.

The five key British Values are:

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

The ethos of our school, as summarised by our Mission Statement, is derived from Christian values which are at the heart of what we teach in school and encompass the five key values identified above. It is our intent to instil these values to ensure pupils demonstrate they have the cultural capital to become successful global citizens.

The following examples illustrate some of the many ways St George's seeks to instil British Values.

Democracy

Democratic values are an explicit part of the Catholic ethos of our school. Adults listen to the views of pupils and value their opinions. Pupils' voices can be heard through our School Council, School Prefects, Liturgy leaders, Eco Council, pupil interviews and questionnaires and through the teaching of Relationship Education and PSHE.

The children learn about democracy through formal lessons and assemblies, but also through their involvement in the election of members of the School Council, Liturgy Leaders and Eco Council.

Rule of Law

The importance of laws and rules are reinforced in the classroom as well as through school assemblies. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws – that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Catholic law is taught through gospel values. Each class decides on their class values to act as their rules for the year. Right and wrong is taught through the upkeep of these values. Children show their respect of these values through circle time type activities as appropriate within their class.

Pupils follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the expectations, rewards and consequences that are used. Assemblies and discussions in class are rooted in our Catholic faith and beliefs, and focus on recognising right from wrong. The "Home School Agreement" is a bond between pupils and teachers, parents and governors – and reflects the changing needs of the school.

Individual Liberty

Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners and to make choices within a safe and supportive environment. A focus upon making the right choices is explicit through our assemblies and as a Catholic school our ethos emphasises that we are all the same in the eyes of God. Praise assembly celebrates each child's achievements and parents are invited to attend. Equal opportunity planned for – all pupils have their moment to shine.

Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils across the Year groups have the opportunity to be members of the School Council, Eco Council and Liturgy Leaders. Every year 6 pupil has a job in school. This includes School Council, Eco Council, Liturgy leaders, House Captains, Sports Leaders, PE monitors, Librarians and Office helpers. Reading buddies and lunchtime buddies are roles available to support the younger children.

Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedom and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global, and frequently initiate fund raising activities. Consideration and care for others is key to our Catholic faith, is evident in the ethos of our school, and is explicitly taught through our Religious Education curriculum and PSHE lessons.

Mutual Respect

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'. Assemblies promote respect for others and the importance of good manners. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honest and open communication with others, and fairness and justice. Pupils work collaboratively and value the opinions of others.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

The Catholic life of the school sets high expectations for respect and tolerance of all faiths. As a Catholic worshipping community children are taught that we are all created in the image and likeness of God and are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum and the spiritual life of the school. Respect and tolerance for members of our wider community is often achieved through fundraising for CAFOD, Operation Christmas Child and Father Hudson's homes. Sikhism, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism are studied in KS 2 and children have the opportunity to visit different places of worship and listen to parents who share their faith. Assemblies and classwork promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

