



The DfE's non-statutory guidance on promoting British values in schools outlines the understanding and knowledge expected of pupils as a result of schools meeting the requirement "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."

At St John & St James' C of E Primary School, we promote the core aspects of British values through the SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) work that is integrated throughout the curriculum and is embedded in our core Christian values. We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff and provide a model of behaviour for pupils. As stated in our vision states,

Our school's vision is deeply rooted in the Bible, and in Jesus' teaching. We have embedded one of Jesus' greatest commandments into our school ethos, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' By treating others how we wish to be treated, we promote a school culture ingrained in mutual respect, understanding and compassion for those around us.

We learn together by creating a safe and secure environment, in which every child is accepted and valued for their individuality, and is motivated to learn. We use a co-operative approach, which encourages children to support each other with their learning and to do the very best they can, with no learner left behind.

We celebrate our diverse community, and **we journey together** towards educational excellence, personal and spiritual fulfilment, underpinned by good physical health and mental well-being.

We pray together, and prepare our children for their future, by creating a strong set of values, which will enable them to reflect and make positive choices with confidence and strength. We teach our children the importance of community, both local and global, as we reflect on the impact our choices have and the importance of sustainability and growth.

All members of the school community respect and support the Christian vision of the school, which enables us to grow as a community, to show compassion to others, and to stand up for justice.

As a school community, we value and celebrate this country's diverse heritage. Alongside this, we value being part of Britain. In general terms this means that we celebrate traditions in the course of the year, for example, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day during the Autumn Term.

In addition, through the ethos of the school and the systems in place, British values are reinforced in the following ways:

Democracy

The school council, as well as the Rights Respecting ambassadors, Green Team, Digital leaders and Sports crew are elected in a democratic way and meet every two weeks to provide pupils' opportunity to raise issues, organise events and activities for the school and put forward their suggestions for new initiatives. Recently the School Council has worked together to improve our school's lunch menu, choosing equipment for lunch time and ensuring drop off and pick up for all pupils is safe. Through all areas of the curriculum and at all stages of the school, children are taught



the importance of listening to others and their viewpoint, allowing the pupils to gain a full understanding of democracy. Within history lessons, children learn about different political systems and the advantages and disadvantages of these.

The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at St John and St James Primary School. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules and values of our school which helps them understand boundaries and acceptable behaviour. They are taught about keeping safe and keeping away from danger. The 'Stay on Green' system rewards children for, amongst other things, good work, helpfulness and good levels of effort. Equally, the consistency shown in dealing with negative behaviour ensures that all children learn the importance of laws, not just within school but within the community and country. Peer mediators are taught how use restorative justice techniques to help resolves disagreements between their peers. Children are taught that we are all equal before the law and equalities act.

Individual liberty

Making the right choices and being responsible for them are important principles at our school. All children have equal opportunities and are encouraged to be independent in making the choice that is right for them. Our pupils are actively encouraged to make informed choices, knowing that they are in a safe and a supportive environment. We provide boundaries for pupils to do this, thus empowering them to make good decisions. This also incorporates understanding how to remain safe through PSHE and E-safety sessions. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms. They understand we are free to have different opinions and how to express these respectfully. Children also explore examples in history where individual liberties have not been valued. Zones of regulations are used to help children identify how they are feeling and suitable strategies available for them to self-regulate.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our school vision. Children at St John and St James Primary School learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. Listening to others and behaving as we would want others to behave towards us are important features of everyday school life. Children are taught to deal with conflicts by talking. Children are taught through our debate curriculum how to respectfully disagree with each other and listen to others point of view.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At St John and St James Primary School we actively promote diversity through our curriculum, celebrating different faiths, cultures and champion equality. Children are taught to challenge gender cultural and racial serotyping. School assemblies, Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are invited in to speak in class and at whole school assemblies and, at various stages of their time at our school, the children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. Our children are taught to be advocates of change and stand up for social justice. Through our activism unit of work children are given the space and opportunity for their voices to be heard on societal issues effecting



them, researching organisations That are combatting hate and promote tolerance. They explore possible solutions to these problems through activism, focusing on its many forms: petitions, protests, lobbying, art, online and through literature.

British history

Through the study of British history, pupils are taught to understand the different periods of our history in a chronological order. In addition, cross curricular topic work linked to the study of specific periods in British history underpins notions of our shared heritage, values and traditions.

Commitment to charity work

We encourage our pupils to participate in and support good causes and charities. This reinforces that there are large numbers of people both at home and overseas who are much less fortunate than ourselves and who deserve our support. Being a Rights Respecting School, the children are taught about the UNCRC conventions of the rights of a child and dedicate time to reflecting on the importance of these rights and how they are respected. Charity days such as Sports Relief, Red Nose Day, Children in Need and Unicef Day for Change encourage the children to reflect on other people's lives and ways we can support them.

All staff at St John and St James strive to ensure that our pupils leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and make a positive contribution to our society.