St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy

SMSC and British Values

*This policy should be read in conjunction with the school’s Safeguarding/child protection policy.*

1. Follow Christ’s example at all times and grow in love, awe and wonder of Him.
2. Make everyone aware that through Christ we take our own place in society acknowledging that our actions affect the lives of others.
3. Give everyone the opportunity to develop their full potential within an atmosphere of mutual respect.
4. Ensure that within a balanced and broadly based curriculum everyone will be given the opportunity:

* To develop enquiring minds, with the ability to question, argue and think rationally and independently.
* Use number and language effectively.
* Develop physical abilities and aesthetic appreciation.
* Acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life, society and employment in a fast changing world.

1. Enrich the spiritual life of the individual through a varied and meaningful

Liturgy.

1. Promote the school’s virtues of Love, Charity, Faith, Courage, Pride and Respect

**SMSC and British Values at St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy**

The DfE have recently reinforced the need to **‘create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect tolerance of the those with different faiths and beliefs.’**

St. Joseph’s curriculum continues to ensure that our children's learning is both meaningful and benefits from a specific focus on the core requirements of the English and Mathematics curriculum.

The school's curriculum is Values Based. Our aim is to ensure that children are prepared for, and have an appreciation of life in modern Britain.

**Values based Learning**

We are a Values Based school.  Each month we focus on different values such as respect, honesty and tolerance.  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 our Values-based philosophy that infuses the ethos and work of the school.  These Values are:

* Mutual Respect and the Tolerance of those with different faiths and Beliefs.
* Democracy.
* Justice and the Rule of Law.
* Individual Liberty.

All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts and lessons provide excellent opportunities to deepen and develop understanding. Children embrace these concepts with enthusiasm and demonstrate a good understanding of their application to their own lives.

Underpinning all of this are a range of curriculum topics which have strong links to the history of our country and our British values. These topics include opportunities to learn about and focus on the following values:

* Our duty as citizens to help others who are in need;
* Our responsibility to look after and care for all living things;
* Respecting difference;
* Our responsibility to follow rules and laws;
* Issues surrounding discrimination;
* Mutual respect for those of other faiths and traditions;
* Democracy and changes to law;
* Equal opportunities;
* Recognising the role of volunteers and community groups in helping others;
* Conflict resolution;
* Living in a diverse world;
* Children’s rights.

The school makes considerable efforts to ensure children have exposure to a wide experience beyond their local community during which these concepts are shown, through for example, sporting events, residential visits and outdoor centres and through visiting speakers from other religious denominations and groups. Our strong-rooted values-based understanding gives us an excellent platform for embracing difference.

Assemblies play a large role in developing SMSC and British Values learning at the school.

Topics/themes for assemblies include:

* Celebrating learning and achievements both in and out of school.
* Celebrating attendance and punctuality.
* Learning about different cultures, festivals and celebrations.
* Learning about British Values
* Weekly Hymn practice
* Choosing school prefects and school council members
* Our weekly assemblies focus on various themes around the Word of the Week.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At St. Joseph’s, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

**Democracy**

Democracy prevalent in many areas with school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil questionnaires. The elections of School Councillors is based solely on pupil votes. Some of our key policies and procedures, for example Anti-bullying and Behaviour are developed in association with groups of pupils and/or parents and all are offered the opportunity to contribute an opinion.

**The Rule of Law**

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Whole-school rules are frequently discussed and are displayed prominently throughout the school. There are reminders and reviews of these annually. At the start of the academic year, each class discusses their code of conduct/class rules. This is displayed for the whole class to see, and is referred to and adhered to. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits to and from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

**Individual Liberty**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safety, through of provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities or which school meals they opt for each day, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

**Aims and Objectives**

SMSC and British Values are not separate subjects in Primary schools. They are taught as a means of developing the ‘whole child’. Successful SMSC and promoting British Values education is achieved through formal and informal learning and from experiences and relationships throughout the school.

At St. Joseph’s Catholic Voluntary Academy, we believe that SMSC and British Values are at the heart of education achievement. All staff and adults in the school have an important role to play in promoting the personal and social development of all our pupils. This will enable them to develop their confidence and abilities to become effective learners. It will support pupils as they move from childhood through adolescence to become independent young people and responsible citizens, showing a tolerance within British society.

We aim to ensure:

* That everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles;
* A consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school;
* That a child's education is set within the context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background;
* That children have a good understanding of their responsibilities and how to exercise them.

Through classroom activities and dialogue in the wider curriculum we will give the children opportunities to:

* Share their achievements and successes with others;
* Talk about personal experiences and feelings;
* Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs;
* Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death etc.
* Explore relationships with friends/family/others;
* Consider the needs and behaviour of others;
* Show empathy;
* Develop self-esteem and a respect for others;
* Develop a sense of belonging.

Reviewed November 2022

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