



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mission Statement

***To go forward together in Christ.
To respect our neighbour.
And to always give of our best***

Sacred Heart 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."

In 2013 the Department for Education said

"Keeping our children safe and ensuring schools prepare them for life in modern Britain could not be more important. This change is an important step towards ensuring we have a strong legal basis for intervening in those schools where this is an issue."

"The vast majority of schools already promote British values. This is about making sure we have the tools we need to intervene if children are being let down."

Schools are required to actively promote and not undermine "British Values." The

government has set out its definition of British Values as:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Sacred Heart 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 our Faith, the Gospel Values and placing God at the centre of everything that we do will give our pupils the necessary awareness and understanding of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today. This embeds in them the building blocks of a future successful and productive life.

Through Our 3-5-7 Vision, RE, PSHE, SMSC and promoting The Common Good we are able to make real links between the values of our pupils and the lives of others in their community, country and the world in general.

Through our Creative Curriculum we teach about democracy, civic responsibility, rules and laws, the monarchy, equality, values and virtues, environmental awareness and understanding of other faiths

Democracy – what do we do?

- Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services
- Teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- Encourage pupils to become involved in decision-making processes and ensure they are listened to in school – this is achieved through our 3-5-7 vision, pastoral provision and School Council
- Organise visits to the local council and Parliament
- Hold class debates so pupils learn how to argue and defend points of view
- Help pupils to express their views
- Enable pupils to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil questionnaires
- Teach pupils how public services operate and how they are held to account
- Model how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged

Rule of law – what do we do?

- Ensure school rules and expectations are clear and fair
- Help pupils to distinguish right from wrong
- Help pupils to respect the law and the basis on which it is made
- Help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals
- Develop restorative justice approaches to resolve conflicts

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced on a daily basis, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies.

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.

Individual liberty – what do we do?

- Support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights.
- Model freedom of speech through pupil participation, while ensuring protection of vulnerable pupils and promoting critical analysis of evidence.
- Challenge stereotypes.
- Implement a strong anti-bullying culture

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 safely, through 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.

Respect and tolerance – what do we do?

- Promote respect for individual differences
- Help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life
- Challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- Organise visits to places of worship
- Develop links with other faith communities
- Develop critical personal thinking skills
- Discuss differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, and gender and differences of family situations, such as young carers

3-5-7 Vision

At Sacred Heart our 3-5-7 vision, school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Work and posters around the school promote respect for others and this forms part of our Mission Statement "To respect our neighbour" which is reinforced through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy.

The school has 5 KEYS which help the children focus on improvements they can make towards all aspects of their development, making up the '5' part of our '3-5-7' approach. The 5 KEYS are:

- *Managing Situation*
- *Good Community Membership*
- *HungertoAchieve*
- *Knowledge of Life and its Rules*
- *Managing Information*

The school uses 7 shared expectations to support its aims, ethos, vision, values and teaching;

- Be gentle, kind and helpful
- Have good manners
- Work hard
- Look after property
- Listen to people
- Be honest
- Tell an adult if you have a problem

We value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all pupils and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate these and these are built in to our whole school Curriculum Map. We have found this approach to be enriching for all parties as it teaches tolerance and respect for the differences in our community and the wider world. Underpinning all of this are a range of curriculum topics which have strong links to British values.

Over the past few years as a whole school, we have celebrated topics such as

- The Olympics - where children learned about the history of Olympians nationally and locally. We also took part in the 100 days of Peace.
- The Diamond anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II where all year groups were given the opportunity to develop their understanding of the British Monarchy through the school's creative curriculum.
- The First World War and the Second World War.

On a more general level, the school undertakes assemblies which uphold traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance.

These are also taught within formal RE lessons and on an informal nature throughout the school days. The curriculum also focuses on Other Faiths where our pupils learn about Judaism and Islam.