



THE FEDERATION OF ST JOSEPH'S JUNIOR, INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOLS

BRITISH VALUES STATEMENT

Reviewer/s:	Danielle Ashley
Last reviewed on:	December 2024
Next review due by:	December 2025
Approved by:	Full Governing Board

Introduction

In all that we do at St Joseph's, we seek to fully live up to the mission statement of our entire school community. This provides a secure foundation for our work to ensure the understanding and practice of British values, imbued with our Christian faith.

British values come out of the Christian tradition of Great Britain and are a reflection of the Ten Commandments. Christian values are embedded throughout our school life. We have an obligation to ensure that our pupils learn about these Christian values and that they practice them through the opportunities and high standards that we offer at St Joseph's.

Any behaviour on the part of the children, staff, parents or visitors which suggests prejudice to others, a failure to respect people of different faiths or none, or an action which demeans or causes or condones physical hurt to others will be challenged. Our intention is that we should explore and help each other to understand the significance of our actions so that we make a valuable contribution to helping to eradicate hate and intolerance.

What We Do and Plan to Do

- Pupils learn from the Foundation Stage that all are created equal in the sight of God and that all humankind is made in the image and likeness of God. Everyone in our school community is taught by example and through the curriculum (see below) to see the God-given dignity in all humankind. This behaviour is modelled by staff and by the pupils. Therefore, to show mutual respect is an expected observable behaviour throughout the school.
- Pupils learn that as individuals and as our school community we need rules. Pupils, for example, through School Council help to review and to make some of the school rules and to understand that some rules are made for us. They are taught about and learn respect for the law both within lessons e.g. History and PSHE and through Assemblies.
- Pupils learn about reconciliation in religious education and this is applied through the school's approach to behaviour management. This helps the pupils' growing sense of the difference between right and wrong.
- Pupils are encouraged to show initiative and to participate in identifying needs and responding to ensure the well-being of fellow pupils and others. This is exemplified in their development of strategies such as the friendship stop, peer mediators, playground buddies and their intolerance of any bullying (which is also underpinned by a robust anti bullying policy). The school engages with the Unicef Rights Respecting Charter as a Rights Respecting School.

- Pupils are provided with rich opportunities to take responsibility and to show care for others. Older pupils take on leadership roles such as Head Boy, Head Girl, house captains, school councillors and monitor tasks. The successful candidates will meet the with the Governors regularly throughout the year. Some Year 6 pupils are also trained to be peer mediators. There are links with a neighbouring home for the elderly where the choir performs music familiar to the residents. Pupils nominate and choose charities which they then very successfully support through planning and running events during Charity Week. Charities supported are found both in the UK and abroad.
- Our pupils come from diverse ethnic backgrounds. This is drawn out and celebrated in such things as music, dance, prayers, texts and writing. Parents are encouraged to attend our regular school and class Masses, the various Assemblies and other functions with opportunities throughout the year to celebrate their cultural heritage which is an essential part of the preparation for life in modern Britain for the children.
- The school provides opportunities for pupils to show initiative, to take responsibility and to demonstrate the skills and attitudes that will help them prepare to participate and contribute as active and involved members of their diverse communities.
- Pupils practise democracy through elections to the vibrant School Council. Governors meet with KS2 School Councillors at least termly and KS1 School Councillors annually in the Summer Term. A Governor is invited to at least one Council meeting per term and regular meetings are held between the Head Boy/Head Girl and CoG. More is learnt about democracy in history topics, particularly about the Second World War as well as preparation for Remembrance Day. The school proudly displays the memorial for past pupils killed in the service of their country at the main entrance. The school participates in our Parish Remembrance Sunday Mass. The school is used by the local community as a Polling Station as well as having hosted local community meetings for our local councillors. This allows regular discussion about how democracy works in Britain today, including democracy at local, national, and european level. The local councillor is well known to the school and has visited the school.
- As pupils get older we place more emphasis on pupils in working with live media reports, critiquing and discussing, listening to and exploring other views. Newspapers and bias is an explicit topic in the English curriculum. We teach and expect pupils to have regard for other points of view and to learn how to put their views forward constructively and to avoid compromising their values whilst being

open to reflection.

- Our PE and sports are structured to help to develop a sense of fair play and the participation of all, as does the range of activities linked to our House System (of four Saints whose lives are inspirational to our pupils). Sports Day for all pupils allows participation of all pupils as well as after school clubs being open to any pupil. The school has a rich history of representing Croydon at a variety of sports including gymnastics, hockey, and tag rugby. Participation in borough wide competitions in these sports as well as in athletics, cross country, swimming, football, and netball allows a large number of pupils, including pupils with additional needs, to train together and work together to strive for and achieve success. Children are helped to develop a sense of mutual support and appreciation of trying one's best. The Year 6 Young Leaders Programme delivered through PE lessons gives all children the opportunity to prepare for moving on to secondary school with an understanding of responsibility and awareness of their impact on others. We believe that such actions help pupils to prepare for their lives as future citizens in the global village. PE lessons adopt the Spirit of the Games ethos.
- Our religious education is firmly Christian and specifically Catholic, helping the pupils grow in their faith. Pupils also learn about other faiths and beliefs, including respect for and about the importance of faith to those of other faiths or none. A high priority is placed on arranging visitors to meet with and see the places where others worship. This includes visits to a Greek Orthodox Church in Crystal Palace as well as welcoming representatives from other faiths to the school.
- Pupils learn about their own physical and wider development at appropriate stages of their school career. They are helped to understand change in their bodies and in their feelings and to appreciate the uniqueness of this, coupled with respect for the feelings of others and the right to feel safe from all kinds of abuse whether name calling or physical. This work is underpinned by our PSHE and is supported by the essential element of work carried out by pupils, staff, parents and governors towards the Unicef Rights Respecting Award. We are also proud to have achieved and been re accredited as a Healthy School and in gaining Sports England Activemark Platinum.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The Governing Body and the Executive Headteacher are confident that St Joseph's promotes community cohesion, provides excellent PSHE and equips pupils to be good future citizens. All that we do reflects life in modern Britain today which in turn prepares all the children to develop spiritually, morally, socially, and culturally to enable them to take their place within that society.

1. The SLT will maintain an annual overview of the 'across school' activities that contribute to the skills and learning for British values. The Executive Headteacher will use this and the reporting from meetings with class teachers (see below) to make an annual statement to governors, during the Autumn Term Governing Body Meeting, on the school's work in relation to British values.
2. Key Stage leaders will discuss with their class teachers at least annually the curriculum opportunities that they have used and will use this to develop British values and to propose ideas and plans for the future. The outcomes of these discussions will be shared with SLT.
3. Governors will review their statement as necessary. Governors will record on their school visit reports any observations they have made to show the promotion of British values both inside and outside the school.