



Sacred Heart School

Promoting Fundamental British Values Policy

At Sacred Heart School we all aspire to provide a happy, safe and secure environment in which every child is encouraged to achieve their full potential.

This policy is applicable to all pupils, including those in EYFS.

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Last reviewed on:	September 2026
Review date:	September 2028
Review Cycle:	Every Two Years

To be read in conjunction with the school's Mission Statement, Behaviour Policy, Equality and Inclusion Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Prevent Policy, RE Policy and RSHE/PSHE provision.

Sacred Heart School actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. This reflects the Independent School Standards and the statutory Prevent duty. These values are embedded within our Catholic ethos and our mission to Love, Learn, Grow and Worship. They are promoted through the curriculum, prayer and liturgy, assemblies, pupil voice, relationships, behaviour expectations and the wider life of the school. Our approach is age-appropriate, including in EYFS, and aims to prepare pupils to participate positively in life in modern Britain. We challenge discrimination, prejudice and behaviour or views that are contrary to these values, while providing appropriate opportunities for pupils to ask questions, discuss different viewpoints and learn to disagree respectfully.



Democracy:

Democracy is promoted throughout school life. Pupils are encouraged to understand that their views matter and that they can contribute positively to their school and wider community. Pupil voice is developed through groups including School Council, GIFT, CAFOD and Charities, Laudato Si', Digital Leaders, Oscar Romero/Faith in Action and Sports Ambassadors, as well as through pupil questionnaires, class discussion and consultation. Where appropriate, pupils take part in elections and voting so that they experience democratic processes in practice. Within classes, pupils have opportunities to express their views through discussion, circle time, questionnaires, decisions about aspects of class life and other age-appropriate activities. In Upper Key Stage 2, pupils develop their understanding of Parliament, democracy and how citizens can influence decision-making. Through the curriculum, Catholic Social Teaching and charitable work, pupils are encouraged to recognise injustice and consider how individuals and communities can bring about positive change. The school supports charitable organisations and local initiatives, including CAFOD and the local food bank.



The Rule of Law:

The importance of rules and laws, whether those that govern the classroom, the school or the country, is consistently reinforced through school life, assemblies and the curriculum. Pupils are taught to distinguish right from wrong and to understand why rules and laws are needed, how they protect individuals and communities, the responsibilities they place upon us and the consequences when they are broken. School and classroom expectations are clear and are applied in an age-appropriate way through the Behaviour Policy. Pupils are encouraged to understand that fair rules help communities to be safe, respectful and able to flourish. Where appropriate, opportunities are provided for pupils to learn about public institutions, public services and those responsible for making and upholding the law.



Individual Liberty:

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make age-appropriate choices within a safe and supportive environment. The school provides clear boundaries so that pupils learn to exercise their rights and personal freedoms safely and responsibly. This is reinforced through Online Safety, RSHE and PSHE, safeguarding education and the wider curriculum. Pupils are given meaningful choices in their learning and in wider school life, including opportunities to select activities, approaches to tasks and extra-curricular opportunities. They are encouraged to understand that the choices they make have consequences for themselves and others. Through our Behaviour Policy, age-appropriate rewards and sanctions, and classroom expectations, children learn to take responsibility for their actions and understand how their choices can affect the wider school community.

Our shared values encourage both adults and pupils to be positive role models. We challenge stereotypes and discrimination and help pupils understand that individual liberty is accompanied by responsibility to oneself, to others, to the local community and to the wider world. Pupils are supported to develop confidence, independence and the ability to make informed and safe choices.



Mutual Respect:

Mutual respect is central to our Catholic ethos and our mission to Love, Learn, Grow and Worship. Pupils learn that every person has dignity and should be treated with kindness, fairness and respect. Staff model positive and supportive relationships, and expectations for respectful behaviour are reinforced through the Behaviour Policy, RSHE and PSHE, RE, assemblies, prayer and liturgy, and everyday interactions. We support initiatives such as Anti-Bullying Week alongside our own work promoting kindness, friendship and positive relationships. Through assemblies, RSHE and PSHE, class discussion and pupil voice, children learn to recognise bullying and discrimination, understand their impact and know how to seek help. Where appropriate, visitors and older pupils may contribute to this work.

Reconciliation and forgiveness are important within our Catholic life. Pupils are given opportunities to listen to others, resolve disagreements appropriately and repair relationships. Through the curriculum and enrichment opportunities, pupils encounter a range of cultures, traditions, beliefs and experiences. The school promotes inclusion and challenges stereotypes and prejudice, including through its Equality and Inclusion Policy, Accessibility Plan, RSHE and PSHE provision and charitable work.



Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs:

Pupils are helped to understand their place within a diverse society and to respect people whose faiths, beliefs, cultures or backgrounds may be different from their own, including those who have no religious faith. The school teaches that freedom of religion and belief is protected in law and that difference must never be a cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. As a Catholic school, our teaching is rooted in the Catholic faith while encouraging genuine knowledge, understanding and respect for others. Through RE and the wider curriculum, pupils learn about other religions and worldviews in an age-appropriate way, including Judaism, Islam and other faith traditions as set out within our curriculum. Appropriate visitors, resources and visits to places of worship may be used to deepen pupils' understanding. We do not claim to celebrate every religious festival; rather, pupils encounter significant beliefs, practices and celebrations where these support planned learning.

Our Mission Statement underpins everything that we do. The fundamental British values are promoted alongside, and are complementary to, the Gospel values that shape our Catholic school community. Through our mission to Love, Learn, Grow and Worship, pupils are encouraged to respect the dignity of every person, value difference, act justly, take responsibility and contribute positively to their community and to life in modern Britain.