**SS John & Monica’s Catholic Primary School**

**Policy for British Values**

At SS John and Monica’s Catholic Primary School, we uphold and teach pupils about British Values as directed under Ofsted guidance, September 2014, which states that schools should:

‘…promote tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (or those of no faith), cultures and lifestyles; and support and help, through their words, actions and influence within the school and more widely in the community, to prepare children and young people positively for life in modern Britain.’

Our commitment to a community rooted in love, tolerance, respect and celebration of differences, flows from our School Mission Statement:

***‘At SS John and Monica’s we learn through the example of Jesus to love, respect, understand and value each other’***

**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.

**Democracy:** Democratic values are an explicit part of the ethos at SS John and Monica’s. All adults listen to the views of the pupils and value their opinions. Pupils have further opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, who meet each half term.

**The Rule of Law:** The importance of laws and rules are consistently reinforced in the classroom, as well as through school assemblies. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws - that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used. Assemblies and discussions in class focus on recognising right from wrong.

**Individual Liberty:** Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices, within a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others in particular through our Gospel values. Furthermore, E-safety teaching enables them to make choices in a safe manner.

**Mutual Respect:** Our school’s ethos and behaviour policy are based on Gospel values, our mission of ***‘learning through the example of Jesus to love, respect, understand and value each other’*** is central. Assemblies constantly promote respect for others and the importance of good manners.  All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honest and open communication with others and fair play. Pupils work collaboratively and value others’ opinions.

**Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs:** As a Catholic worshipping community, pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum and the spiritual life of the school. Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

As a Catholic School 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 the Gospel Values will give our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today, and embed in them the building blocks of a future successful and productive life.

**Our Gospel Values inspire us to follow in Jesus’ footsteps by being:**

* Eloquent and Truthful
* Learned and Wise
* Curious and Active
* Intentional and Prophetic
* Grateful and Generous
* Attentive and Discerning

Through our RE, PSHE, geography and history, we teach explicit modules about democracy, civic responsibility, rules and laws, the monarchy, equality, values and virtues, environmental awareness and understanding of other faiths.

Miss Geoghegan

PSHE coordinator

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