

British Values Statement

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 and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

Being Part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of all at Saint Patrick’s Catholic Academy and what it means to be part of British Society. Throughout the year we celebrate traditions such as Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, Easter, Diwali, Eid and Hanukah. At Christmas the Nativity is performed by all the children in KS1 and Early Years and Key Stage 2 present traditional carols and readings in church. Many of our children experience a travelling company who deliver a pantomime and traditional parties are held to celebrate the season.

In addition, we also value and celebrate national events, including the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and The Tour de France which started in Yorkshire. We also celebrate British sports successes such as motor racing and athletics

Furthermore, children learn about being part of Britain from different specific perspectives. Two specific examples are learning about being part of Britain through the Geography curriculum. The programme of study for History also focuses on Britain as the children learn about World War 2, the Victorians and local history pertinent to Yorkshire.

Actively promoting these values means challenging pupils, staff or parents/carers who express opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including ‘extremist’ views. Saint Patrick’s Catholic Voluntary Academy takes opportunities and is committed to promoting these fundamental British values in the following ways:

Democracy

Pupil voice, as well as parent/carer voice, plays a central part in developing school improvement priorities. The school is clear in demonstrating how pupils should contribute and co-operate and consider the views and needs of others. The School Council meets regularly and takes part in decision making on a range of topics. The Fair Trade council explores issues of fairness and equality of trade.

The House System was established, in 2017, across school to increase a sense of belonging amongst the children, the camaraderie and motivation to work together to succeed. The house captains will be chosen democratically. A number of different competitions and events have been established to encourage Houses to engage more fully in the life of the school. Children are also chosen by their class friends to become a class ambassador for the term.

The Rule of Law

Staff consistently reinforce high expectations of pupils. Whenever appropriate pupils are taught the value and reasons behind these expectations; that they are there to protect us and that everyone has responsibility and there may be consequences when rules are disregarded.

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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service.

During Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are considered.

During other aspects of the curriculum, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in a sports lesson, for example.

Individual Liberty

Within school, everyone is actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. The school provides pupils with opportunities to learn about what makes a good choice. Pupils are encouraged to express their views and teaching and learning incorporates their preferences and interests.

In addition to the above, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely; for example:

Choices about what learning challenge or activity they undertake.

Choices about how they record their learning.

Participation in competitions both internal and external including mathematics challenges and sporting opportunities.

Choices regarding their participation in extra-curricular activities.

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, the curriculum for PSHE.

Mutual Respect

At Saint Patrick's, our Christian values of respect and tolerance permeate all areas of school life. This engenders a climate within which pupils feel safe and secure and facilitates the fulfilment of potential. All staff demonstrate respect to everyone with whom they come into contact. They consistently model and promote the behaviours and attitudes that are the foundation of positive relationships. The strong school ethos of collaboration and inclusion, encourages everyone to consider and support each other and to celebrate the worth and individuality of every member of the school community. At special celebrations the children sing the national anthem. Throughout the school year we recognize wonderful sporting successes and the Queen's birthday.

Pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are as developed through aspects of the curriculum including:

- ❖ Religious Education.
- ❖ PSHCE.
- ❖ Philosophy for Children (P4C)
- ❖ Assemblies.
- ❖ Circles (RP)
- ❖ The hidden curriculum
- ❖ The Buddy System, School's Councillors and Class/Language ambassadors
- ❖ Visiting local elderly homes to sing during the year and give them harvest gifts
- ❖ Singing the National Anthem each term at the John Cox Award Assembly

In addition, to assemblies and open days for parents with a focus on different Cultural

Celebration's some year groups are involved in "Cultural Celebration Month" and others visit

Diverse places of religious worship

All adults model the appropriate behaviour and the school challenges anyone at any level who is intolerant, disrespectful or behaves in a way which is contrary to the ethos of Saint Patrick's. The school's ethos is shared with parents / carers through twice monthly Headteacher's newsletters, letters from staff and assemblies.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

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.

We are proud of our British heritage and at Saint Patrick's, we enthuse about our rich community of children and families who live and learn together in peace and mutual respect.