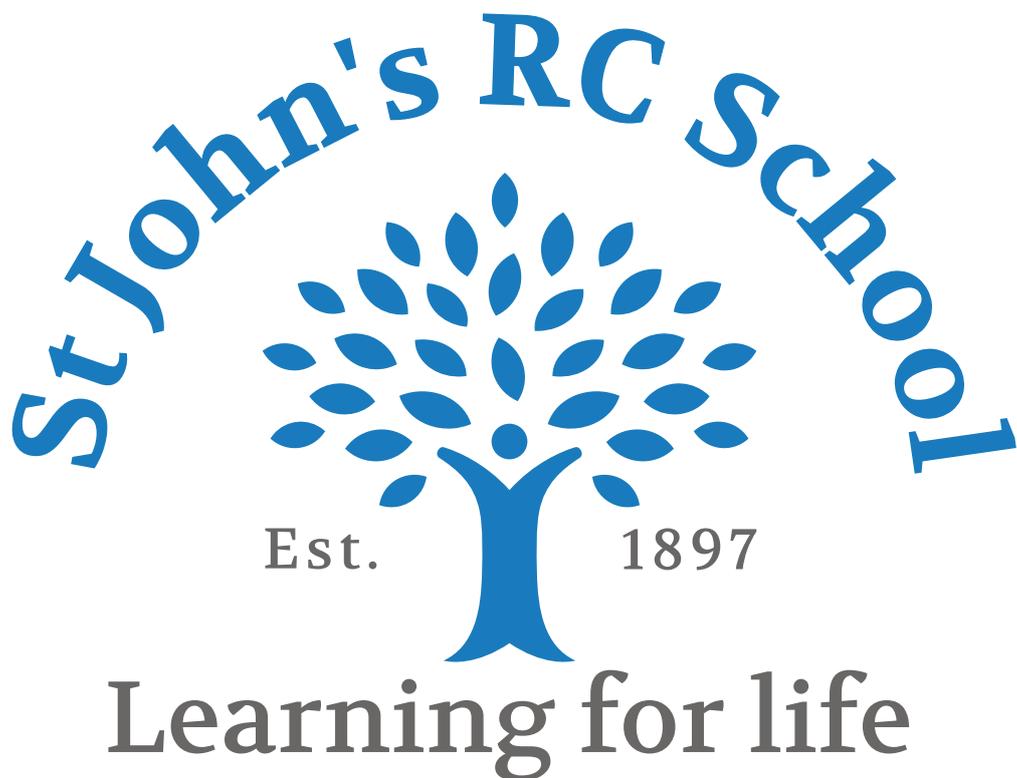


St John's
British Values Policy
2021-2022



Introduction

At St John's RC School, we are committed to creating a community based on British Values. Within the DfE's 'Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in Schools' (2014) states that all schools should follow the fundamental of British Values;

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect for those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

Aims and objectives

St John's RC school is a community of pupils with a range of learning difficulties. We believe that these essential values underpin much of our work in promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils. This ensures that our school community will show mutual respect, be tolerant of and celebrate the similarities and differences throughout our school. We actively promote the values through our curriculum.

We feel that celebrating our pupils' contributions to these values is a chance for us to recognise achievements. Each week, one pupil from each class is awarded with a values leaf; this will be given to pupils who have demonstrated outstanding values in one of the areas. This leaf is added to our school 'Value Tree.'

Democracy

Promoting the value of democracy takes many forms, within the formal, semi-formal and P16 curriculum. Pupils are encouraged from an early age to see them as having a voice which is listened to within the school. All pupils are encouraged to communicate their views and their feelings by using a range of communication tools – signing, words, visual aids etc.

Within their class groups teachers work collaboratively with the pupils to create their own class rules. This allows pupils to take ownership for what they feel is a good or a not good choice. This is displayed within the classroom and pupils will be prompted by the teaching staff to remind them of the rules.

Pupils at St John's, elect peers to participate in the School Council. This reflects a real election – pupils will decide who they feel would be a good School Council representative and vote for them. The School Council meets regularly and which makes a significant contribution to the life of the school and decision making. Pupils are regularly invited to put forward their views about the school. They have made contributions to providing snacks and hot drinks for parents and carers at parents evening as well as making the school greener by planting a tree on the school field.

The Rule of Law

At St John's, pupils are taught about the importance of rules which protect us, and keep us safe and happy, and help us to get along with others. Through our explicit teaching and through our mission, pupils are encouraged in their awareness of right from wrong. In a school that caters for such a diverse range of ages and abilities, rules within classes and key stages may vary, but throughout all phases, pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and their own behaviour. Through PSHE lessons and informally throughout their interactions with staff and others, pupils learn about laws and the roles of agencies such as courts and police.

Each year, we participate in an anti-bullying week, we have changed the name of this to 'Friendship Week' to encourage our pupils to focus on the term FRIENDSHIP. We celebrate by taking part in the annual day that is participated by schools across the country. This allows our pupils to focus on ways that they can become better friends and what to expect from friends around them.

Individual Liberty

Our pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, appropriate to their ability and level of understanding, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.

We encourage pupils in the development of their self- confidence and self-belief, and to be assertive. We reinforce the belief that we all have rights and personal freedoms, and we demonstrate how to develop and exercise these safely, including in relation to e-safety, through the taught and implicit curriculum. As well as developing a sense of their own personal freedoms, pupils are also encouraged to view the impact they may have on others, including staff, family and peers.

Mutual Respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

We are in a unique position in that we are a Roman Catholic Special School, and Christ is at the heart of all we do. Our mission is to create a community of love and learning, and we are proud of the heritage of the founders of the school, The Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Notwithstanding this, we welcome young people from all faiths and from none. We encourage our non-Catholic pupils to be proud of their differing beliefs, and celebrate these within assemblies and at all opportunities.

Pupils have many opportunities to learn about people from different cultures and faiths including through our links with other countries and through celebrating the multicultural nature of our school family, both staff and pupils. We also encourage our young people to develop their sense of charity and care for others, locally and globally.

At St John's we have an annual 'International Day.' This is a day when we all come together celebrate the number of different cultures, faiths and backgrounds within our school community. We understand that we have many different pupils who are from different cultures and we feel this is something to be celebrated. Each year we encourage parents to send in their pupil to school in traditional outfits and send in food, music and books from their culture for our pupils to share with each other, as well as our staff.