



*Saint Joseph's*  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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# **British Values Policy**

Version 1.1 October 2021

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
CHURCH ROAD  
LAVERSTOCK  
SALISBURY  
SP1 1QY

## Success Criteria:

St Joseph's Catholic School provides numerous opportunities for pupils to explore and live the British values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths.

### Context/Aim:

This policy sets out the framework in which St Joseph's Catholic School will ensure that we actively promote the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

These values are explicitly taught through the PSHE curriculum, and are further nurtured through the school's ethos and promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding and also numerous school events and activities.

It is expected that all subject areas, an in particular humanities subjects, also contribute to the promotion of British values either in their curriculum content and/or delivery.

Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our pupils have:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence.
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- An acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

## Monitoring Procedures:

<b>By Whom:</b> Governors' Pastoral & Ethos Committee	<b>When:</b> Biennially	<b>How:</b> Report from Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Promoting British Values to to members of Pastoral & Ethos committee
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## Evaluation:

<b>By Whom:</b> Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Promoting British Values	<b>When:</b> Biennially	<b>How:</b> Report from Assistant Headteacher to Governors' Pastoral & Ethos Committee
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## Revision History:

Version	Approved and Ratified	Review Date	Additional notes
V 1.1	October 2021	October 2023	

### **Vision Statement:**

St Joseph's is a co-educational, 11-16 Catholic voluntary-aided school in the diocese of Clifton and the county of Wiltshire. Our aim is to provide a caring educational environment where each person is valued and is given the dignity due to a child of God.

At the heart of our school is the Christian vision of the human person. We want each member of our community to grow as an individual witness to the gospel values of love, truth and justice. We want each pupil to be healthy in mind, body and spirit.

Each member of our community should feel safe and secure in the learning environment. We aim to develop a sense of self-discipline and responsibility in our pupils. Everyone in our community should show respect for themselves, respect for others and respect for the environment.

We believe that each pupil should have the opportunity to enjoy and achieve to their full potential. We are committed to praising and celebrating achievement. We want our pupils to have high expectations of themselves to understand the value of service to others and our responsibility as stewards of the environment. Everyone has a contribution to make in helping to build the common good. We aim to equip our pupils with the ability to make good choices in their lives based on the positive relationships and values they have learned in St Joseph's.

We aim to help each of our pupils to develop morally and spiritually. We want them to achieve economic well-being while being mindful of the needs of others who are less fortunate.

We are committed to aspiring for excellence in all that we do for the sake of the Gospel.

Head teacher

### **National Policies and guidance/courses referred to and incorporated into SJCS Policy:**

<b>Document/Course Title:</b>	<b>Document/Course Date:</b>
Equality Act 2010	
Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015	
Ofsted (2021) School inspection handbook	
DfE (2014) 'Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information	

### **Other SJCS Policies that relate to this Policy:**

Child Protection Policy  
Safeguarding Policy  
Behaviour Policy  
Equality & Diversity Policy

## 1. Roles and Responsibilities

### Roles and responsibilities

- The Headteacher is responsible for the overall implementation of this policy and for ensuring that the British values are upheld throughout the school.
- The Headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.
- The Headteacher is responsible for disciplining staff who do not uphold British values, in line with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.
- Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.
- Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with each school's Behaviour Policy.

## 2. Roles and Responsibilities

The St Joseph's Tree of Values compliments the fundamental British Values. Our Values Tree is rooted in Respect as this is the most important value in our school. The Values that form our Values Tree also form the structure to our assembly programme for the year and we publicly celebrate all those pupils who live by our school values by including their names and photos in our school values corridor (the main artery of our school).



## 3. The British Values

### 3.1 Democracy

*“An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process”*

UN CRC Article 12: Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

At St Joseph’s pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard, including through:

- Pupil questionnaires and surveys
- Playing an important role in recruitment of new staff
- Involvement in Senior Prefect Panel & numerous pupil body councils (environment, wellbeing etc)

Our pupils are also encouraged to be involved in a number of votes throughout their time at school

- Annual Head Pupil elections and votes
- From captain & vice-captain votes
- Voting within lessons

Pupils are explicitly taught about democracy during PHSE lessons and also explore the concept and its application in History, Sociology and RE lessons.

It is our aim that these events and opportunities will equip them with experiences and an deeper understanding of how the democratic process works.

### 3.2 The rule of law

*“An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety. An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence”.*

UN CRC Article 19: Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

At St Joseph’s we have a clear behaviour policy and accompanying strike system, pupils are very aware that actions have consequences;

- the positive is celebrated (wheel of prizes, weekly raffle, achievement points)
- the negative is punished with a view to reforming (behaviour points, detentions, community service).

Pupils, often, are given the opportunity to create class rules and are taught the values behind such rules ie. That they are essential for their wellbeing and their safety.

The rule of law is also explored in through many curriculum areas most notably in Sociology and RE lessons when studying crime and punishment and origins of rules such as the 10 commandments for Jews & Christians and also the 613 mitzvot for Jews

We also seek to involve external agencies (such as the Police and also 'Prison Me No Way' in our school life to discuss and promote the importance of the Rule of Law.

### 3.3 Individual liberty

*"An understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law"*

UN CRC Article 31: All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities  
UN CRC Article 15: Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organization, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

A safe and supportive environment is fostered throughout the school, where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.

Pupils are taught about their rights and personal freedoms, and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through teaching on e-safety in ICT and also when Individual Liberty is taught explicitly in PSHE lessons.

Through our school values and Assembly programme children are taught about personal responsibility, choices, ambition and aspiration.

During Key Stage 4 pupils are given increasing opportunities to shape their future aspirations:

- In year 9 pupils are guided through the options process and encouraged to make choices that are appropriate and suitable for their ability and aspirations.
- In year 10 pupils research and choose a local employer for their work experience.
- In year 11 pupils are guided to research independently colleges, courses and other options open to them following the termination of their GCSEs.

### 3.4 Mutual respect

*"An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination"*

UN CRC Article 2: The convention applies to everyone, whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.

UN CRC Article 30: Children have a right to lean and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

Respect forms a core pillar of our school's ethos. Pupils are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and all members of staff with respect.

This is reinforced through each school's Behavioural Policy, Values Tree and Values Corridor and in our mantra "Do Your Best & Mind Your Manners".

St Joseph's acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity.

Throughout the year, assemblies are held focussing on bullying, with reference to prejudice-based bullying, and discussion is encouraged.

We embrace and celebrate cultural diversity in school – evident through our pupil intake and also celebrations such as International Day.

We reinforce the value of everyone's opinions through class debates.

We emphasise that every person is unique and "created in the image of God" – this is visited time and time again in our assembly programme as well as throughout our RE curriculum.

We pride ourselves on the Charitable work undertaken by our pupils and staff, particularly our support for Alabare (homeless charity) and Trussell Trust.

EAL Students are encouraged to take a GCSE in their own language where available.

We have mixed ability forms to encourage pupils of all abilities to mix and socialise with each other.

Our Pupil Premium programme ensures all students are given equal opportunities regardless of circumstance.

Prefects play an active role in encouraging their peers to be respectful.

### **3.5 Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

*"An acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour"*

UN CRC Article 14: Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

We promote opportunities for students to explore and gain a deeper understanding of their own faith as well as an awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as a basis for understanding and respecting them.

Throughout their RE curriculum pupils learn about: Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

The school's intake is approximately ¼ Catholic and as such, the ethos of the school is one of acceptance of all beliefs and faiths.

Pupils are given the opportunity to go on a variety of religious themed events: meeting the Catholic Bishop, attending mass in school, visiting different religions' places of worship (synagogue, Buddhist Temple), attending religious retreats.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum.

## **4. Challenging Views That Go Against British Values**

St Joseph's openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and pupils, that goes against British values.

The school adopts a zero-tolerance approach towards discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour. Any pupils displaying this behaviour will be disciplined in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Referrals regarding pupils that may be at risk of radicalisation will be made in accordance with the School's Safeguarding Policy and training regarding the Prevent Duty.