

St John's CE JMI School

'We are Learning for Living'

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Dear Parents,

Promoting British Values in Schools

The DfE have recently reinforced the need **“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 these with different faiths and beliefs.”** The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year.

At St John's these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy is demonstrated throughout St John's school with pupils having the opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas through Class Councils, the pupil-elected School Councillors, Eco Councillors and through pupil voice questionnaires. The election of House Captains and Vice Captains is based solely on pupil votes. 'Man or woman of the match' in netball and football is again based on team member votes, not staff decisions.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws (rules), whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently embedded and reinforced throughout the school day, through our school assemblies as well as when dealing with behaviour issues. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws or rules that govern and protect us, the personal responsibilities that this involves including the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire Service, and Magistrates are a part of our curriculum and help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices at St John's, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Through the provision of a nurturing environment we empower pupils to make choices safely within safe boundaries. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are supported in learning how to exercise these safely for example through our e-Safety and PSHE lessons. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices – this may be through choice of challenge, how they choose to record work, or perhaps of participation in extra-curricular activities.

Mutual Respect

As a Church of England school, our ethos and behaviour code are based on core Christian Values, one of which is 'Respect'. Pupils are encouraged to discuss and relate this value to their own behaviour and attitudes through discussions, assemblies at school and at church and through all aspects of our curriculum, including PSHE. Our classroom rules and behaviour code reflect the premise of mutual respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Through understanding their place in a culturally diverse society, and by giving children the opportunities to experience such diversity, we aim to enhance our pupils' tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudice and prejudiced –based bullying, are supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum. Members of different faiths are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

I hope you will find this information helpful – it can also be found as a document in the Policies area of our school website.

Kind regards,

Mandy Evans
Headteacher

