



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Dagenham

Teaching and Promoting British Values

Each one of us has been created by God for a special purpose
and is therefore uniquely special.

Together we pray, grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus.

Since September 2014, we have been required by the Secretary of State for Education in the Prevent Strategy "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation 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."

In St. Joseph's, as a Catholic School, we teach a values based education founded on Christian Values, all of which are linked to those promoted by the secretary of state. As a Catholic school our teachings are rooted in Gospel values and the catechism of the Catholic Church and Code of Canon Law. We welcome and value the backgrounds of all our pupils and families and we undertake a variety of lessons, activities and events to celebrate these. These experiences are enriching and inspirational, teaching tolerance and respect for differences in our community and the wider world. Reinforcing these practices are a range of curriculum topics, which have strong links to the growth and development of Britain. In following the new R.E. curriculum, all pupils will learn in detail about key faiths and through this learning they will be taught to show respect for those faiths. Through History, pupils are taught about significant periods in British History and are encouraged to identify these in chronological order.

In Key Stage 1 there is a strong curriculum focus on the work of famous British figures both past and present; these include Grace Darling, Florence Nightingale and Queen Victoria. The children thoroughly enjoy learning about people from the past and in particular those who have had an impact on the modern world and our community.

In Key Stage 2, the children look at Queen Victoria and the British Empire. Additionally, they learn about our foundations from Roman Britain and also study a local British artist. In Year 6, pupils learn about World War II and the impact that it had on the British Empire and thus on British society today. As part of the history unit in Year 4, pupils learn about the Anglo-Saxons and how they influenced the Britain we live in today; from the names of Britain's towns and cities to the cultures and religious beliefs many people have.

We mark specific National Celebration days, such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday and the link to the tradition of wearing poppies. We also celebrate St. Andrew's Day, St. David's Day and St. George's Day.

In recent years, we have celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with a special assembly and in 2015 a number of pupils had the opportunity to attend a local event with Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Pupil voice is high priority in St. Joseph's and there are a number of pupil teams that represent the children across the school. These roles and responsibilities are shared with all children with a prominent notice board for information. In particular, the School Council is active and mimics the democratic system in our country. Nearing an election, we have carried out a similar process in school, so that pupils gain a better understanding of how democracy works.

The PSHCE curriculum has strong citizenship and social educational links. Together with the inspiring R.E. curriculum, co-operation and tolerance are promoted. Policies, such as equal opportunities, inclusion, race equality and anti-bullying, promote a sense of values for each other. The Rights Respecting Charter lays out clearly our rights and our consequent responsibilities.

Democracy

Each year, the School Council is elected by the pupils in each class, so that the whole school is represented at the Council. The council meets regularly to make a genuine and collaborative contribution to the development of our school. The children fill in at least one annual questionnaire to put forward their views/concerns about the school. At the beginning of each academic year, the pupils in each class draw up their own class charter with agreed rewards and consequences.

The Rule of Law

The rule of law is emphasised at a local level and simulates national and by laws. Pupils understand the need for certain rules when living in a community if we are to live in harmony and that different rules happen in different places in order to keep us safe and able to work together. For example, in school we have a rule where we keep to the left on the stairs. Pupils understand that in an environment with so many people, this rule is necessary for our well-being, however, they also understand that this is not a rule we would need to have in our own homes.

The importance of rules at class or school level are consistently reinforced and how these mirror laws in wider and national society. Pupils are taught these rules from an early age, but in particular, why we have them and as a consequence, they value our rules and can apply these values simply, in a national context. They understand the right to choose as well as the responsibility this brings and the consequences that may ensue. Visitors, such as the Police or Fire Service, help to reinforce these rules.

Individual Liberty

In St. Joseph's we actively encourage our pupils to make safe and informed choices and our behaviour policy is based on these principles. Through an empowering curriculum pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are

advised how to exercise these safely. Our PSHCE and E-Safety programmes are examples of these.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. The distinctive nature of our school is founded on the Gospel values of love for our neighbour. We promote tolerance and respect for everyone. Within this curriculum, children learn that their behaviour has an effect - positive or negative - on others, particularly on their own rights and those of others. The Rights Respecting Charter promotes rights and the consequent responsibilities. All members of our school community are expected to be treated with respect. We value everyone as a unique individual. Our school motto is known and understood by all the children.

Respect for those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

As a Catholic School, we promote the Gospel values of love for one another. Jesus did not discriminate against anyone. Through our R.E. programme, we actively promote respect and understanding of other faiths and beliefs. As part of the programme, children will have the opportunity to learn about other faiths. We reinforce, through R.E., tolerance and respect for others. We are a multi-cultural school and we are committed to exploring and celebrating our diverse school community. Parents and carers help us in this celebration when we have an annual multi-cultural day.

Reviewed July 2024

Next Review July 2027