



# SS John Fisher & Thomas More Catholic Primary School

A Voluntary Academy

"Journeying together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn."



## British Values

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."

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust motto is "Journeying Together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn".

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

### Democracy:

Democracy is a key to our organisation within school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, pupil questionnaires and through circle time and "the talk team". The elections of the positions of head boy, head girl, deputy head boy, deputy head girl and the school House Captains, as well as the pupil parliament take place each year. Candidates are asked to write and then give a speech as to why they wish to be considered for specific positions. Children and staff then vote for their preferred candidate. These post holders ensure that the voice of the pupils is heard and listened to throughout the year. Children who hold these positions are actively involved in leading assemblies each week.

### **The Rule of Law:**

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. 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. Visits from emergency services (eg police) are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

Everything in our school is governed by the School Golden Rules. These are:

#### **Golden Rules**

Do be gentle

Do not hurt anybody

Do be kind and helpful

Do not hurt people's feelings

Do work hard

Do not waste your or other people's time

Do look after property

Do not waste or damage things

Do listen to people

Do not interrupt

Do be honest

Do not cover up the truth

### **Individual Liberty:**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. The Golden Rules provide the backbone for this. Children are rewarded for making the right choices through certificates, letters home, stickers and achieving the "GREEN" standard in their half termly attitude assessment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are given advice on how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

### **Mutual Respect:**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect'. Across the school, all classes implement a PSHE scheme "Statements To

Live By". Every fortnight there is a key statement which is shared with all pupils and parents. For example "I try to use words that make the world a better place". The statement is introduced in weekly assemblies and discussed within RE & PSHE lessons.

**Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

St John's is a diverse school and our community comes from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school and the children learn about and where possible visit, places of worship that are important to different faiths.

Multi Faith weeks take place each year. The school also celebrates events such a "Black History Month". Displays around school reflect the cultural diversity within our school community. Annually fundraising events often reflect our cultural diversity (eg an International Garden Party).

At St John's we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views. We will also challenge racism and expect everyone within our community to respect British laws whilst supporting their own culture.

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