



## Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Policy on British Values

### *British Values are in line with our Gospel Values!*

The DfE reinforce 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.”*

Schools are required to actively promote and not undermine “British Values”

The government has set out its definition of British Values as:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

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.

Through our RE, PSHE and foundation subjects we are able to make real links between the values of our pupils and the lives of others in their community, country and the world in general. At Sacred Heart, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

#### **Democracy**

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil voice.

Each year, elections are held and children engage in the democratic process by completing and returning ballot forms in a formal election procedure. Children, parents and staff are given regular opportunities to give feedback on school life. This is done through pupil interviews, Parents' consultation evenings, parent/staff/pupil questionnaires, individual meetings, pupil suggestion boxes and School Council Meetings.

#### **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. Our school rules apply from FY to Yr6 and children are reminded of these on a regular basis. We adhere to a well-considered and effective behaviour policy and children are disciplined appropriately when rules are broken. This is always within the understanding of mutual respect and that we are all made *in the image and likeness of God*.

We constantly remind the children about the Gospel Values and emphasise that we all need to follow and demonstrate them as part of our Catholic Life.

#### **Individual Liberty**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important.

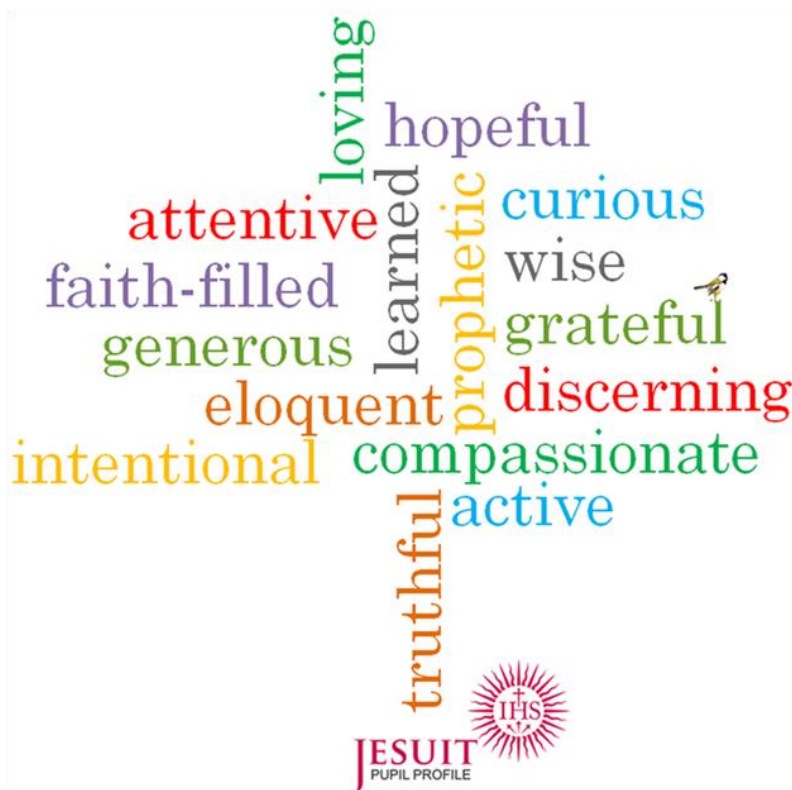
As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and we discuss how to exercise these safely, for example through our Computing (ICT) – E Safety, R.E. and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

### **Mutual Respect**

Our school's ethos and behaviour policy are based on Gospel values, with the important commandment being, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. Assemblies constantly promote respect for others and the importance of good manners. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honest and open communication with others and fair play. Pupils work collaboratively and value others' opinions. Resources around the school remind the children of Gospel Values.

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

As a Catholic worshipping community, pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum and the spiritual life of the school. Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. Our Charitable works also strive to develop the understanding of different faiths and beliefs as these are focused on at times through the year.



### **Pupil Profile - The Jesuit Institute**

The Jesuit Pupil Profile has its own logo which shows the virtues we will be focussing on. The tree is symbolic of the growth of the virtues. Within its branches comfortably resting is the goldfinch which has been used in art since medieval times to symbolise Christ and the Passion.

All schools in the diocese have adopted an approach similar to the Jesuit Pupil Profile. In the profile are eight sets of words which have been paired together because of their complementary and harmonising relationship to one another: from the development of one virtue springs another.

Each half term we award various children as demonstrating specific virtues in their daily school life.