

Promoting British Values at Saint John Payne Catholic School

At Saint John Payne Catholic School we are fully committed to promoting British values in line with recent Department for Education (DfE) recommendations and the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 to keep children safe and prepare them for life in modern Britain. We welcome the DfE's focus on strengthening the 'spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) standard' by actively promoting the 'fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs, and encourage students to respect other people, with particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010' (Please refer to the Saint John Payne Catholic School PSHE and Citizenship document.)

In October 2014, the Education Secretary Nicky Morgan further reinforced this; "We must not be shy about talking about fundamental British values... and schools should promote values such as 'mutual respect' and equality between girls and boys, she said, adding ideals such as democracy and tolerance must be 'woven' into the curriculum" (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-29627391>).

In the latest OFSTED report (November 2011), it was noted that "The school places a high priority on preparing students to play a full and useful role in society. It does so through its strong programmes of citizenship, religious education and personal, social and health education. As a result, students' personal development is good and they contribute well to the school and wider community."

Democracy

Democracy is a fundamental value of our school community and integral to all that we do. For example, students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our school council, student panels and student questionnaires. The election of form captains, house captains, council representatives and the student leadership team is based on student voice and votes. All students have the opportunity to participate in the Young Essex Assembly Elections.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of laws is explored in a variety of ways and is further reinforced through the Behaviour policy. The school behaviour code promotes our high expectations regarding what is right and wrong and how to make appropriate choices. Students are taught the value and reasons behind laws, how they govern and protect us and the responsibilities and consequences when laws are broken. Within our school curriculum, A Level Law is a popular and successful course. Students have the opportunity to take part in the annual Gepps and Sons' Legal Debate.

Individual Liberty:

Within school, students are actively encouraged to make informed choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school, we educate and provide boundaries for students to make safe choices within a broad and balanced curriculum. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and how to exercise these safely. For example through our e-safety and PSHE activities (please refer to

the PSHE document). Students also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of enrichment and extra-curricular residential visits, trips and clubs which are open to all.

Mutual Respect:

We strongly encourage students to respect others and do our utmost to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying and harassment; this includes cyber-bullying and prejudice-based bullying relating to special educational need, sex, race, religion and belief, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment. We are committed to giving our students the opportunities to flourish as rounded individuals in a learning environment which is explicitly Christian but open and respectful of differing viewpoints. Our curriculum provides young people with a context for understanding themselves and the world in which they live, in order to prepare them for their future as responsible citizens within our society. We endeavour to develop the self-esteem and self-discipline of our students, and develop their talents so that they realise their potential to the full.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

Saint John Payne Catholic School is an inclusive community, where all are valued irrespective of faith and traditions. Aspects of the curriculum are linked to raising students' awareness and respect for, the faith and traditions of other communities – both on a local and global scale. Together with this, there is the strong emphasis on the development of social, moral, spiritual and cultural skills where students are encouraged to think and decide for themselves, and be tolerant of the views of others. Saint John Payne's International School Award was achieved in recognition of our commitment to international partnerships. In Religious Studies students investigate world religions and explore moral issues from different faith perspectives and those of no religion. In geography, students study migration and multiculturalism in the UK and why it is important to live in a tolerant and non-discriminatory society (please refer to the PSHE and Citizenship document for further examples).