

Promoting British Values

St John Payne Catholic School



St John Payne Catholic School promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs through SMSC Education. 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.

Blended Learning Policy Owner: Assistant Headteacher

Last Review Date: November 2023

Promoting these values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values. Attempts to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values would be completely at odds with schools' duty to provide SMSC Education. The Teachers' Standards expect teachers to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school. This includes not undermining fundamental British values. 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 school aims to:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for democracy, and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

As a consequence, students will have an understanding of how citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process;

- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence;
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

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. For example through our e-safety and PSHE activities (please refer to the PSHE document) students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of enrichment and extracurricular residential visits, trips and clubs which are open to all. 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.

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.