

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

In 2013 the Department for Education said “Keeping our children safe and ensuring schools prepare them for life in modern Britain could not be more important. This change is an important step towards ensuring we have a strong legal basis for intervening in those schools where this is an issue.”

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. Through our Creative Curriculum we teach about democracy, civic responsibility, rules and laws, the monarchy, equality, values and virtues, environmental awareness and understanding of other faiths.

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

## **Democracy**

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through Class circle time and School Councils. Each year, elections are held and children engage in the democratic process by completing and returning ballot forms in a formal election procedure. Please visit the 'School Council' section of our website for further information. Children, parents and staff are given regular opportunities to give feedback on school life. This is done through pupil interviews, a Governors table at Parents' consultation evenings, parent/staff/pupil questionnaires, individual meetings, pupil suggestion boxes and fortnightly 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**

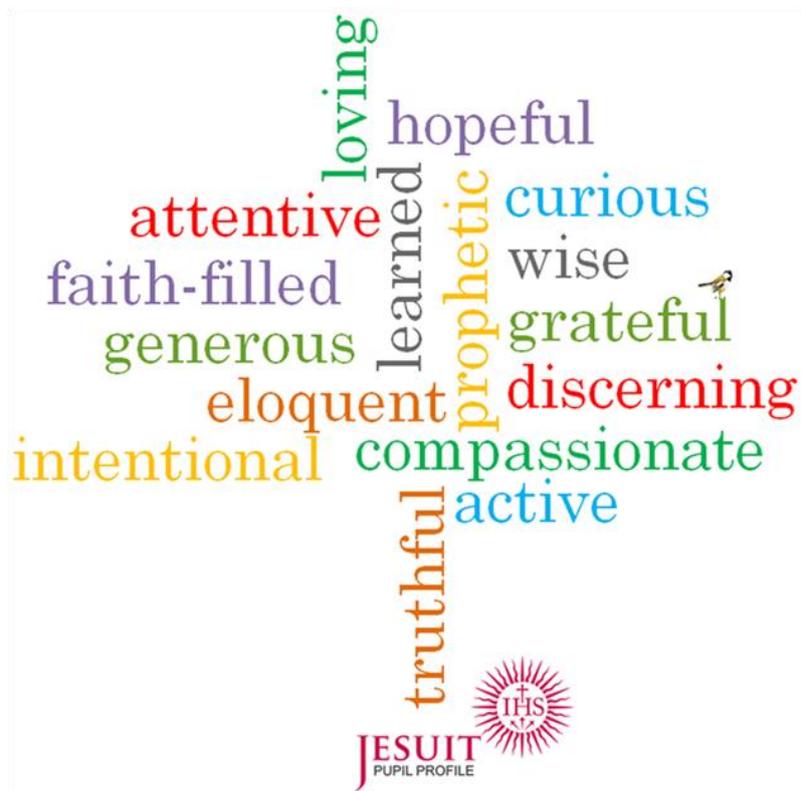
Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices, within a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. The pupils have achieved the 'Unicef UK Rights Respecting School Award'. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others through our Religious Education curriculum and PSHE lessons in particular. E-safety teaching enables them to make choices in a safe manner.

### **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'. Our Mission Statement clearly visible in the school reminds all 'to follow in Jesus' footsteps, caring for each other when we work, play and pray'. 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.

### **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 are adopting 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.