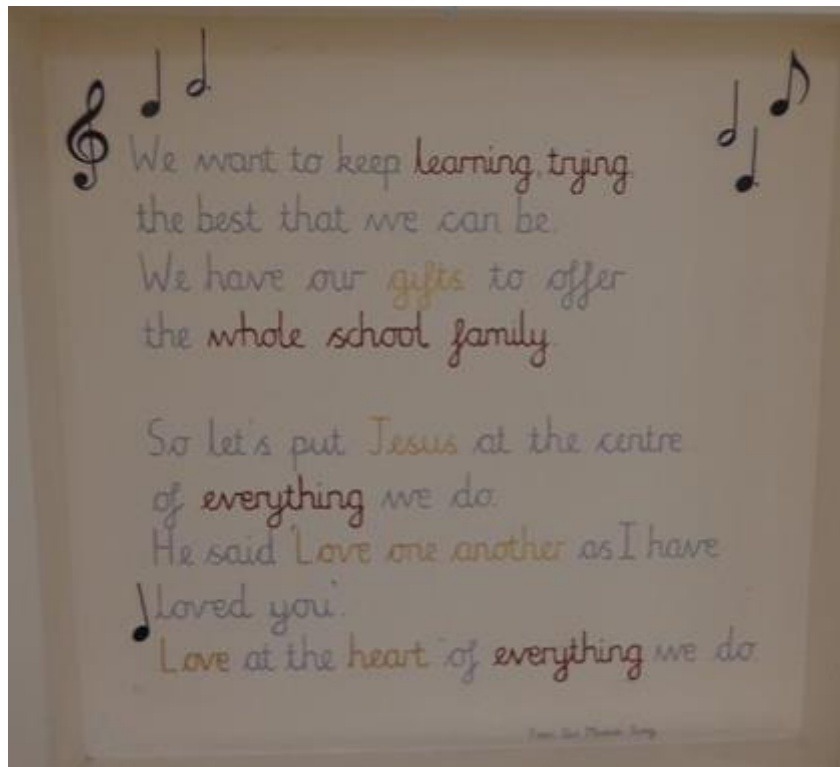


British Values and our Catholic Ethos



Our Mission Song

The Department for Education expects schools to have a clear strategy to promote British values to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain and has 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."

British values are:

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

The promotion of 'British values' is central to Catholic education because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.



British and Gospel Values Display

At St Dunstan's these values are at the heart of all we do and are encompassed in our Mission Statement and deep core values.

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through the school's well-established Pupil Voice committee whose members are elected by classmates at the start of each year. Meetings are held regularly with an agenda, which is discussed in class in advance so that all children have an opportunity to contribute. The elections of House Captains are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. In the classroom children in the Upper Phase learn about Britain's democratic system and law-making– this includes why we need rules and laws and the responsibilities that we have as British Citizens. The Pupil Voice committee members visit the Houses of Parliament each year to find out about how British people's voice is listened to and effects the changes that are made to the laws of the country as a whole, as well as local councils.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Our school has core values, Gospel values, which are deeply embedded in our work every day. The children are taught right from wrong and understand the importance of

making the right choices. Each class also discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when rules are broken. Each family signs the Home School Agreement which outlines expectations.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our online-safety programme and RHE lessons. Whether it is through; choice of challenge, applying for roles such as Play Leaders or participation in our numerous extra- curricular activities, our pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

Respect is one of the core values of our school and we encourage our children to show kindness, respect and consideration towards others. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have. The core value of respect at St. Dunstan's underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom and is modelled by all staff. Our Equality policy reflects this core value. The school supports events such as Anti Bullying Week and Internet Safety is an integral part of the computing curriculum.

Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. The well-defined religious education curriculum is designed to enhance pupils understanding of different faiths and beliefs. At different stages of their education children learn about Judaism and Islam. Educational visits are made to places of worship of other faiths including the local mosque and synagogue. The school is fortunate in having families from a wide variety of cultures and actively encourages parents to visit the school to talk to children about their cultures and traditions. Through the

International Dimension element of the school's own curriculum, children celebrate the school's diversity.