

## Promoting an Understanding of the Values which Underpin British Society

As a Catholic school our mission is to live out the values of the Gospel which emanate from Jesus' law of love and his guidance about how we are called to treat one another: respect for the life and dignity of each individual, trust in God; honesty, compassion, forgiveness, mercy, community, servant leadership, equality, simplicity, justice and peace. These values are embedded in all that we teach and are promoted in all of our interactions with others in the school and the wider community.

The values which underpin our community at St. Joseph's School in Epsom are those which we know will prepare our children to live in the wider society of Great Britain in the 21st century. We fully recognise and embrace the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom and are committed to ensuring that everyone in our community is happy and free from intimidation or radicalisation by others who might wish to influence them. The staff are vigilant and monitor carefully relationships and behaviour which might be detrimental to the safe and happy development and growth of every member of our community.

Our commitment to those values permeates all aspects of school life: our policies, relationships and curriculum. On a weekly basis, in PSHE lessons, children explore many themes which are relevant to this area. In addition, we plan specific events and activities designed to focus the children's minds on key areas in order to heighten their awareness of the values. Below are some examples of where a visitor might see our commitment to promoting British values in action.

### People Who Made Britain Great

In the past, our classes have been named after people who made Britain great. We have chosen individuals who we believe set an example to us by their actions. We believe they demonstrate qualities to which we all aspire:

<b>Equality and Justice:</b>	Emmeline Pankhurst and William Wilberforce
<b>Service to Others:</b>	Mary Seacole, Edith Cavell
<b>Determination to Succeed:</b>	Andy Murray, Tanni Grey-Thompson
<b>Inspire Others with Creativity:</b>	Samuel Pepys, Edward Elgar, Isambard Kingdom Brunel
<b>Desire to Discover:</b>	David Attenborough, Edmund Hillary
<b>Vision and Leadership:</b>	Ernest Shackleton, Dave Brailsford

### Other Examples

<b>Democracy</b> an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process	<b>Class Ambassadors Elections:</b> Children stood for election; they made speeches; each cast a vote in a polling station at a booth. <b>School Council Elections:</b> Each September children vote for their representatives on school council. Children's views are taken to the regular council meetings <b>Questionnaires to Children</b> Regular surveys to children ensure their voice is heard: Tell us What You Think About Curriculum; Clubs and Activities
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<p><b>The Rule of law</b> an understanding that individual freedom is protected in law</p>	<p><b>School Codes:</b> These guide our children and ensure that our community has a common understanding of law: Playground code; Good manners code  <b>School Motto:</b> Work Hard, Play Well and Make Other People Happy is displayed around the school hall.  <b>School Policies:</b> Behaviour Policy and Bullying Policy. These provide children with very clear guidelines as to expectations and how poor behaviour is dealt with. They have strategies for dealing with situations if they are the victim.  <b>Visits from the Police:</b> These help to reinforce the message that our laws are for the protection of all.</p>
<p><b>Individual liberty</b> an understanding that we have the freedom to choose our faith and beliefs</p>	<p><b>Study of Other Faiths:</b> Embedded within our RE programme, Come and See, are topics which focus on a deeper understanding of Judaism and of Islam.  <b>Assemblies:</b> Each year we dedicate an assembly to each of the other faiths we study and draw parallels with our own faith experience.</p>
<p><b>Mutual respect and tolerance</b> an understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination</p>	<p><b>The Right to Expect Respect:</b> E-safety policy, Sex Education programme and EPR/PSHE lessons teach children about their right to be respected and what to do if their personal space is not respected.  <b>Culture Days:</b> An event which has included Filipino, Spanish, Italian and other cultures.  <b>Curriculum Study:</b> Specific topics studied promote key values for example, 'A Fairer World' in Year Six  <b>International Schools Award:</b> We link with schools across the world as part of this work. This helps to broaden the minds of the children and to share experiences.</p>