

**St Gildas' Catholic Junior School  
Promoting British Values**



***“Through our actions we will try to live as Jesus lived.”***

**December 2017**

## **Promoting British Values at St Gildas'**

The DfE have recently 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.”*

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At St Gildas' these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Catholic Education is rooted in the Gospel values of Respect for Life, Love, Solidarity, Truth and Justice; it aims to harmonise faith and culture, build a better society and pursue the Common Good.

As a Catholic School we provide high quality, rounded education for all young people, so that they develop their full uniqueness and potential.

### **Democracy:**

Democracy is promoted within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and various Pupil questionnaires. The annual elections of school council members are based solely on pupil votes.

Pupils are regularly consulted to gather their views on a range of topics relating to school life, e.g. School dinners, conference groups led on specific subject areas by individual curriculum leaders. The views expressed through these consultations contribute to decision making within the school.

### **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. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

### **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 young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to

exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Pupils are given the opportunity to make choices, responsibly when they visit Pendarren, Wales for a week in Year 6. This trip allows pupils the opportunity to take on new responsibilities and helps to prepare them for secondary school life.

#### Mutual Respect:

Our school behaviour policy promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules. Catholic Education takes place in communities inspired by the Spirit of Christ. Christ's Commandment to love God and neighbour inspires a caring ethos which is expressed in relationships within and beyond our Catholic school.

We promote the development of each person's full potential in a climate of joy, freedom, respect, challenge, co-operation and celebration.

Our history curriculum offers pupils the opportunity to learn about key events in British history, e.g. Jarrow Crusade, the school marks Remembrance Day each year.

#### Tolerance of those of 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. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and during school trips, e.g. class visits to synagogues, mosques, etc...

Key events relating to Britain are celebrated, e.g. Royal Family events (Diamond Jubilee, birth of royal baby, etc...), Feast Days (St George, St Andrew, St Patrick, and St David)

Catholic Education is inclusive. It is respectful of, and engages with people of all beliefs; it encourages the religious development of all in their own faith.

A culture of tolerance where people of diverse identities are recognised, welcomed, respected and cherished permeates all that we do at St Gildas'.