

St. Cecilia's Catholic Infant & Nursery School



Statement on British Values

"Catholic schools, while providing a quality education, hold up Christian values to children, inviting them to live their lives through them. Teaching these values, for those who know how to accept them and live them consistently, yields highly positive results." (Pope Saint John Paul II)

At St Cecilia's we are committed to living out the Gospel values of faithfulness, integrity, dignity, compassion, humility, gentleness, truth, justice, forgiveness, mercy, service, tolerance and peace.

Our Mission Statement 'Love One Another as I Have loved You' is inspired by the teachings of Christ and promotes the idea of our school as a family community where each individual is valued, nurtured and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Modern British Values have evolved from a tradition of British society being historically Christian and as such our Gospel values and British values are fundamentally the same. At St Cecilia's we believe in and promote;

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Democracy

All children are treated fairly and have an equal right to express their views and be listened to. Children's opinions are valued by adults and pupils are encouraged to express ideas in a variety of ways including the School Council, SEAL lessons, Circle Times and Philosophy for Children. Every opportunity is taken for pupils to vote when the children need to make choices as a group. The School Council is made up of Year 2 children elected by their peers after a democratic vote. Children are involved in the decision making process by filling in questionnaires and taking part in pupil interviews.

The Rule of law

The importance of rules is consistently reinforced in class and around school. All children, including the very youngest in the Nursery, are involved in the process of choosing their own class promises. They are taught to understand the need for class promises and how these develop into rules. In this way children are made aware that rules are there to protect them and are essential for their well-being and safety. All children at St Cecilia's follow a positive Behaviour Policy which is shared with parents and carers and they understand the rewards and consequences that are used. Class discussions, assemblies and Philosophy for Children sessions contribute to children developing an understanding of what is right and wrong.

Individual Liberty

At St Cecilia's we foster independent learning and support our children to make choices within a safe and supportive environment. Through PSHE, SEAL and the Religious Education programme we discuss different choices they may make and the consequences of those choices. Time is given for children to reflect on the choices they have made. Children are taught about keeping themselves safe explicitly in PSHE lessons and regularly throughout the school day. The importance of making safe choices when using the internet is explored regularly in the ICT curriculum and given high profile in E-safety sessions. Children are given the freedom to make choices such as how they will record their ideas, or whether they would like to participate in extra-curricular activities such as Children's University clubs.

Mutual Respect

St Cecilia's has an inclusive Mission Statement and Behaviour Policy based on the Gospel Values previously stated. We promote mutual respect throughout the school and beyond. Children display excellent behaviour because they understand the right of all children to learn and thrive in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Religious Education and PSHE lessons emphasise that every person is unique and 'created in the image of God'. St Cecilia's supports a variety of charities, whether local, national or global and children are fully involved in fundraising. Respect for others and the importance of good manners is promoted in assemblies and in every lesson. Children are taught the importance of self-respect, honesty, open communication with others and fair play. They work collaboratively and value each other's opinions.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

The Religious Education curriculum provides our children with an understanding of their own faith as well as awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as a basis for understanding and respecting them. Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right of each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. We enhance our provision through visits and visitors and there are opportunities to visit different places of worship including our local parish church, the two cathedrals and a synagogue.

Love One Another as I have Loved You

