



British Values at St Bernadette's

Our Inclusive, Christian ethos, in addition to our broad and balanced curriculum and clear, concise school rules, support all of our pupils' development in PSHCE and SMSC and fully promote core British values.

Our Whole School Rules are:

- We will look after each other and our school
- We will be honest
- We will try our best
- We will listen and follow instructions

The examples presented below are not exhaustive but serve to provide an example of the types of opportunities offered at St Bernadette's.

Democracy

At St Bernadette's our pupils quickly learn how they can influence decision making at the school through democratic processes.

At the start of each academic year, pupils work together to draw up their own set of class rules and expectations.

Every term, each class comes together to identify an area of development for their class. The children then vote on a class reward to celebrate when they have achieved the agreed objective. All of the children must then work together to ensure that they reach their objective and receive their reward.

Our School Council is directly involved in decision making across the school and council members share issues raised with their peers, taking votes on proposed amendments. The School Council is made up of elected members of the Children's Chaplaincy Team, Buddies, Eco-monitors and School Ambassadors. They also meet annually with other councils from across the Local Authority.

Our Y5/6 buddies and our Children's Chaplaincy Team members go through a rigorous application process involving written applications and interviews. Outgoing Y6 pupils are actively involved in this process.

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Our Children's Chaplaincy Team meets with representatives of a range of charities and make informed decisions about which charities to support through the year. They communicate this to their peers and the local community. Each class then arranges their own fundraising events and often make decisions around exactly how their money raised will be used to support the individual charities.

Pupils' views are regularly sought via the School Council, class discussion, "Pupil Voice" sessions and questionnaires in order to support the school self-evaluation process and to inform future decisions around development of provision.

When arranging groupings and choosing individuals to contribute to discussions, teachers often use the "lolly stick" approach of random selection to ensure that all pupils are viewed with equal value and have opportunities to contribute and work with a wide range of peers.

We also have recently introduced an annual "speech cup" where pupils prepare a speech on a subject of specific interest to them. Their peers vote for the speech to represent their class in the final competition using a specific set of agreed criteria.

Our pupils recognise their right to positive social interaction and we have several strategies to promote positive playtimes:

Our Y5 & Y6 Buddies, led by Y6 senior buddies support the play and social interaction of the younger pupils, providing a wide range of activities each day.

Our Learning Mentors have a weekly special lunch where nominated pupils join in a small group to share lunch in a pleasant, calm and social environment.

Playzone caters for children with SEN in the area of social, emotional or behavioural needs who require a smaller environment with positive role models providing adult-led games and activities.

Weekly Prayerzone allows children to opt to spend lunchtime at prayer in our school chapel.

There are also a range of additional weekly clubs that form "St Bernadette's University" which are run at lunchtime and after school that pupils can sign up to join - eg newspaper club, football, homework club, choir, hand signing, ukulele, Japanese etc.

The Rule of Law

Our pupils appreciate that the laws of our country and our school rules protect them and others and are essential for their wellbeing and safety.

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, school or country, are consistently reinforced at St Bernadette's.

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Pupils are taught the school rules from an early age - our 4 key rules, God's rules, with specific reference to the key commandments - Love God and Love One another. Children are taught the values and reasons behind the rules and laws - that they govern and protect us and all members of the community. They are taught about the rights that these rules provide alongside the respective responsibilities they entail. Visits from the police and fire service help to reinforce this message.

If a child exhibits inappropriate behaviour which contravenes the school rules, they are required to complete a "What would Jesus do?" form which entails restorative reflection both on the rule they have broken, what the Gospels reveal Jesus would do in such circumstances and what they would do next time.

If a child's behaviour has impacted on others or on the school environment, they are required to carry out restorative practices through "Community Task Force" which may entail activities such as litter picking, supporting younger children etc.

Positive contributions to our school community are openly rewarded - eg Ambassadors are identified each year through a formal ceremony for living our school mission, house points are rewarded for academic and behavioural achievements, Good to be Green stickers and notes home are awarded regularly and pupils who demonstrate our Christian Values are presented with Bernadette Beads. Celebration assemblies take place each week and praise and encouragement are used liberally to reinforce positive contributions.

Individual Liberty

At St Bernadette's, our 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 informed choices, through a safe setting and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise them safely through, for example SRE and e-safety lessons.

Our children are encouraged to recognise that the choices they make regarding their own behaviours impact on other people. They are encouraged to make positive choices that impact positively on others. When pupils are observed or reported to be living by our school values, they are rewarded with a "Bernadette Bead" which is placed in a special vase near our school entrance. Certificates are awarded to pupils who amass specific numbers of beads.

Positive, healthy living and healthy, safe relationships are promoted and modelled to our pupils through positive role modelling and through our Science, RE and SRE curricula. Our designated safeguarding officers, Learning Mentors and Family worker work diligently with pupils, families and external professionals and organisations to ensure that we support the well-being of any vulnerable pupils in our care.

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Our pupils are taught a healthy attitude towards money and recognise their right to grow into independent adults who can earn a living and contribute positively to the economy of their country. Through the maths curriculum, on-going charity fundraising which focuses on how money is spent and our annual “My Money Week”, pupils learn about inequality across society and the world and their responsibility as citizens of God’s world to work for equality. They learn about savings, price increases and reductions, problem solving involving money and debt. The local bank, Metro Bank, support financial learning through sessions delivered to the older pupils both within school and at the bank. Our Year 6 pupils earn “money” through positive work, behaviour and carrying out their specific classroom responsibilities. They are able to spend this earned “money” to buy real items in the termly class shop.

Our pupils are not afraid to speak up for what they believe in. They know they will be listened to and respected even if others have a differing opinion. The courage to speak out is fostered through regular circle times, talk partner work, regular debates through curriculum work and our annual speech cup.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is one of our core school values. Our children learn from the earliest ages, that their actions impact upon others, affecting their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect; all staff and volunteers sign a Code of Conduct on an annual basis and our children and parents/carers sign an annual home-school agreement. All of our 4 school rules tie into respect for others (see above).

Charitable living forms a crucial part of life at St Bernadette’s and this also feeds into promoting respect, compassion and empathy. In addition to the fundraising work carried out by all of our pupils, we also support the local foodbank by both providing regular food parcels and by arranging for our older pupils to spend the day working for this vital local charity. Our pupils also make regular visits to the local care home which have been very well received.

Respect for our environment (God’s Creation) is very much encouraged through attendance at Forest School, our team of eco-monitors, gardening club, Community Task Force and monitoring of our electrical production from our solar panels.

Reconciliation is an important aspect of our values driven curriculum. We have an annual penitential service during Lent and also study the value of “forgiveness”. Irrespective of their own faith background, all pupils are encouraged to view Jesus as the perfect example of how to live life of respect, forgiveness, love, compassion, tolerance and service to others - values which are both *Christian* and *British* values.

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Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

St Bernadette's is a culturally diverse school with over 40 languages represented. Whilst we are a faith school, many of our pupils are not Catholic and a small number are of other faiths. Every pupil in our school is valued as an important member of our school community.

Our school mission statement reinforces the requirement to love and serve others and our RE, Values and cross curricular links reinforce the message of tolerance and respect for others. Our RE curriculum introduces pupils to the faiths of Islam, Judaism and Hinduism in addition to our focus on Catholicism. We visit other places of worship and invite representatives of other faiths to present assemblies and support class based learning. Members of our staff also represent other faith groups and add a richness and authenticity to our studies of other religions. Our RE curriculum, coupled with our Christian Values introduce pupils to consider and discuss a wide range of ethics, morals and live lives of empathy, compassion and tolerance.

Many of the topics we cover through our broad and balanced curriculum encourage pupils to recognise injustice in the world and to draw inspiration from people who have taken steps to address inequality and discrimination. For example, Y2 pupils learn about NHS and Florence Nightingale. Our pupils learn about both world wars, remembrance and the legacy of these wars. Y4 learn about rainforests and deforestation, their literature covers issues such as apartheid and bullying, Y5 look at democracy and the role of women, Y6 learn about issues around inequality in access to clean water and related diseases and learn about the lives and achievements of Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

Through our Christian ethos, clear behaviour policy, e-safety sessions and work on anti-bullying, our children are expected to live as responsible members of society and to identify and report any examples of inequality or discrimination they encounter. They know that verbal or physical aggression, behaviour of homophobic, racist or gender biased nature or any other form of discrimination will be dealt with very seriously and tackled directly by the school's Senior Leadership Team.

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