



St Mary Magdalene C of E School
with
Christ Church C of E Primary School

BRITISH VALUES

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BRITISH VALUES

Within our Federation of schools we promote the fundamental British values (as defined by the DfE). These are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We do this within the context of our Christian values, our school vision and our aim to develop the whole child and their character including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

These values sit alongside our Suite of Equalities Policies, our Equal Opportunities Policy and Equality statement. See here:

<https://www.koinoniafederation.com/page/?title=Federation+Policies&pid=76>

British values can be summed up in the New Commandment Jesus gives His disciples: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." *John 15:12*

Democracy

'Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.' *1 Corinthians 1:10*

In our Federation, democracy is taught explicitly during collective worship, philosophy and Social Sciences lessons and class-based PSHE sessions. Learning about the development of democracy also forms a part of the History curriculum and as such is taught in our secondary project lessons.

Each primary campus has a School Council made up of two representatives from each class, who are voted in each year by their peers. Pupils take part in election processes to select representatives for the School Council. Those on the School Council are given the opportunity to share pupils' views with the school leadership team and the governors.

They are also involved in decision making in the school through a democratic process, gaining an understanding that a place on the school council comes with the responsibility of representing their peers' needs and interests and not just their own.

At the secondary phase, we have a Prefect system with students taking on leadership roles within the school. These students are also elected by their peers and members of staff.

In both the primary and secondary phases we have Pupil Faith Teams. The primary phases have a House System with elected House Captains and Vice Captains and

in the secondary phase Sports Representatives. Across all our key stages there is also a range of other student voice opportunities.

The Rule of Law

'And this is love, that we walk according to Jesus' commandments; this is the commandment just as you have heard it from the beginning—you must walk in it.'
2 John 1:6

In the Koinonia Federation, we consistently reinforce the importance of laws and rules - be they in the class, the school, or the country as a whole. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws - that they govern and protect us. They learn the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when rules and laws are broken.

Pupils are taught from an early age that the rules of the school, which at the primary campuses are called the Golden Rules, are core to our behaviour expectations throughout the school. Our school motto – 'Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you' underpins our desire for justice, fairness and equality.

Pupils are also taught the importance of following rules such as safety guidelines in lessons or on school trips and the reason why these rules are important in our school community.

These values are encouraged through visits from authorities such as the Community Police and Fire Service and to help reinforce this message.

The rule of law is also studied explicitly as a part of several subjects in the secondary phase. In Science lessons, for instance, the rule of law is addressed in units of work covering speed limits and laws concerning alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs. In Computer Science, students investigate importance of privacy and the role of encryption in maintaining or undermining the rule of law.

Our secondary phase is also working towards a system of restorative justice as this promotes the value of forgiveness, helps restore and repair relationships and supports reconciliation.

Individual Liberty

'For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love serve one another.'
Galatians 5:13

As a Federation, we educate our pupils to make informed choices in a safe environment, providing agreed boundaries to ensure that pupils are able to appreciate that freedom also requires care and acknowledgment of others.

Pupils are aware of their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and are actively encouraged to exercise these safely.

For example our E-Safety and PSHE lessons provide teaching in online safety and responsibility alongside safe use policies. Our PSHE lessons also encourage our pupils to engage in social action and to be courageous advocates for change in their local, national and global communities.

Students support fundraising for a wide range of local, national and international organisations eg. Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, Age UK and Comic Relief.

We cultivate an atmosphere in which children can make choices about their school life in a supportive environment.

The secondary Social Sciences curriculum includes an explicit focus on the nature of liberty. Students through a range of activities and supported in preparing to make positive life choices.

Mutual Respect

'All are one in Christ Jesus' Galatians 3:28b

Mutual respect is central to our values. Everyone should be respectful, responsible and safe. The Valuing All God's Children report states 'Church of England schools have at their heart a belief that all children are loved by God, are individually unique and that the school has a mission to help each pupil to fulfil their potential'.

Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others, particularly through processes such as restorative justice.

All members of the school community are expected and encouraged to treat each other with respect. When a child does well, their achievement is celebrated – for instance, through the use of green cards, special mentions in newsletters or in a whole school celebration/achievement collective worship.

The ethos of our Federation is based on the Christian teaching of: *"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," (Luke 6:31)* reinforcing an understanding of mutual respect and courtesy to all pupils and staff in our school community.

We all follow the shared values of: Friendship, Honesty, Love, Resilience, Forgiveness, Understanding, Wisdom, Enthusiasm, Respect, Sharing and Humility. The Archbishop of Canterbury summed it up saying 'The way forward needs to be about love, joy and celebration of our humanity; of our creation in the image of God, of our belonging to Christ – all of us, without exception, without exclusion.'

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.' John 13:34

Our Federation is diverse and we actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures.

Our Religious Education curriculum and lessons, PSHE lessons and secondary Social Sciences lessons emphasise the need for tolerance and respect for others.

This includes the work of our Pupil Faith Teams which comprise pupils from different faiths who support the evaluation and delivery of collective worship, the upkeep of reflection areas within classes and the pupil voice regarding faith topics within our Federation.

Pupils and students visit places of worship that are important to different faiths and use real artefacts and good quality resources to add value to learning.

Members from our wider community of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge and practices, enabling every pupil to extend their learning of various religions and faiths within classes and the Federation.

Our staff and students learn that through our core values - Family, Faith, Fellowship – that we are supporting each other to reach God's potential for us, seeking to encourage each other and bless each other as God blesses us. This is our vision:

‘A Koinonia student will go out into the world happy, courageous,
resilient, motivated with a lifelong love of learning, fully equipped
to make a positive contribution to society.’

By learning about British values and experiencing their impact within a Christian setting, our schools will prepare pupils for “life in modern Britain” and beyond in a holistic manner, enabling them to flourish as children of God, “I have come that you might have life – life in all its fullness.” John 10:10

In this way our schools are contributing to the living out of The Church of England Vision for Education: “Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good.”