

British Values and Our Catholic Ethos

The government set out its definition of 'British values' in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011), which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalisation of young people. British values are considered by the present government to be democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. The promotion of 'British values' is central to Catholic education at because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation. St Antony's is a Catholic school which actively promotes tolerance, forgiveness and reconciliation. Our mission and whole school aims below encourage inclusivity.

St. Antony's is a Roman Catholic High School. Inspired by the teachings and values of the Gospels it endeavours to provide an environment in which the members of the school community can develop spiritually, individually, socially and educationally to their full potential. Our mission is to guide, assist and encourage each member to make a positive contribution to the life of the school, the Church and society as a whole.

Whole School Aims

- To attempt to live out Christ's message by raising the awareness of the individual to the teachings of the Church in their life and environment.
- To provide an atmosphere in which each child perceives itself to be a fully valued member of the school.
- To promote links between school, family, parish and the wider community.
- To promote a desire for knowledge and skills so that each pupil strives to achieve his/her personal level of excellence in the areas of literacy; numeracy; science; creativity; aesthetic awareness; technology; communication; and physical education.
- To encourage the development of a positive self-image, involving self-discipline, self-awareness and self-confidence.
- To encourage a positive consideration for citizenship and social justice.

The St Antony's community, students, staff and governors, is multi-cultural one. At St Antony's Catholic College we recognise, not only the importance of helping students to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the Common Good of all. We teach the importance of British values by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian values. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why British values are important. Our framework for understanding British values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all, which is developed in Catholic Social Teaching. At St Antony's we provide an education which focuses on the formation of the whole person and on our vocation and purpose in life. We are guided by the Christian values of honourable purpose (that is, vocation and service), respect, compassion, co-operation and stewardship as we reflect on our place and purpose in the world. We place a significant emphasis on the

celebration of individuality and difference within our communities and our calling to work for the Common Good, in the service of others. Our Catholic ethos, which includes explicit reference to Christian and British values, makes a tangible difference to the way we work together and with our wider communities. Within this framework it would be impossible to overlook the government's view of British values expressed as 'democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.' The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British values at St Antony's Catholic College and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

Democracy

An understanding of how citizens can influence decision making through democratic process is something which St Antony's promotes in many ways within and beyond the taught curriculum.

St Antony's strives to be an establishment where the views of students are listened to. We have an influential school council who have impacted on a number of areas of school life such as teaching and learning and the behaviour system. Students vote for their school council rep as well as their charity rep. All students then have an opportunity to discuss issues pertinent to school life when preparing for school council meetings. A group of Yr10 students have been involved in Trafford's Youth Council and have been to events to discuss issues important to young people living in Trafford. Senior prefects including Head and Deputy Boy and Girl are democratically elected. Yr9 students recently learnt about democracy and voted in the Trafford Youth Council elections. In English students participate in 'balloon debates' - voting for the best/most worthy for something and at KS4 students are taught how to develop their views and construct a reasoned argument for their GCSE English Language exam. Debates also take place in History around the rise of particular leaders and their ideas e.g. Lenin, Karl Marx and Roosevelt. Democracy is also promoted within PE lessons when discussion takes place around how captains and leaders are elected democratically. When sporting disputes take place students are encouraged to vote for their preferred outcome. To develop teaching and learning students at St Antony's are involved in Pupil Voice activities and, in addition to this, are annually surveyed (along with their parents) around whole school issues. With the imminent General Election taking place this May, students will participate in a mock election as part of PHSE Day 2.

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 every day, as well as when dealing with behavior (with reference to our clear behavior policy) and through assemblies. The curriculum is designed to ensure students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Through our partnership with local police we recently ran a set of assemblies focusing on anti-social behaviour. In Business Studies students learn about business laws and taxation, in ICT they learn about the Data Protection Act as well as other pertinent computing legislation such as copyright. In English Yr8s study 'Holes' which deals with crime and the punishment of a minor as well as Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' which deals with marriage law and its changes over time. The Yr9s study of Commonwealth Literature has a focus on Nelson Mandela's imprisonment. At KS4 the study of 'Of Mice and Men', the short story 'Anii', Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, the poem 'The Laboratory' as well as many other books, stories and poems all link to aspects of law

and democracy. In History the English political system is explained and students learn about the development of rights over time. Relevant laws are also studied in Technology including health and safety laws and regulations, food safety and hygiene as well as British Standards. In RE students will learn about the laws in relation to abortion and euthanasia as well as learning about the Catholic beliefs with regards to these issues. Rules of the Church and God are highlighted in the RE curriculum, for example the 10 commandments and the Precepts of the Church.

Individual Liberty

Within St Antony's Catholic College students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We encourage students to see themselves as unique individuals able to make a unique contribution to building community. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through our exploration of E-Safety in ICT and PHSE and in their form time discussions. Students are encouraged to be independent in their learning.

Mutual Respect

Our school constantly promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments as well as extra-curricular activities such as sport. In line with our commitment to democracy, students are always able to voice their opinions as we foster an environment where students can debate ideas and are safe to disagree with each other. We encourage students to substantiate opinions and to realise the value of co-operation and consensus as well as decision making through voting. Our emphasis on ethics, fairness and justice means that we ask our students to ensure that they look out for those who might be marginalised and disadvantaged. The school takes a strong stance on social inclusion and anti-bullying through an explicit focus on strategies to enable respect for difference through, for example, reflections on homophobia and other forms of bullying.

As part of PHSE Day 1, students in Yr8, following the theme of Dignity of the Human Person, participated in workshops on race discrimination, disability discrimination, hate crime and homophobia. Both Yr8 and Yr9 students were privileged to listen to Sophie Lancaster's mum deliver an assembly about her daughter. The wide and varied fiction and non-fiction texts studied in English allow the challenge of stereotypes and xenophobia as well as prejudicial and discriminatory behaviour. Sports lunch clubs are run by students and refereed by older students who model good practice. Older students ensure younger students are supported and everyone has equal playing time.

It is emphasised in RE, assemblies, PHSE days and at many other times in school that every person is unique and 'created in the image of God'.

Charity work and raising money for those less fortunate than ourselves has always been at the core of St Antony's ethos. Every year a group of Yr10 students takes part in the Romania Project working with orphans and much fundraising activity taking place prior to the visit. Our Irish Night forms a main part of this. Much

charity work takes place in the Advent and Lent periods with charities such as St Joseph's Penny, Cafod and Cornerstones being frequent recipients.

Care of those with needs different or additional to ourselves is also a core value of our school. This is most clearly apparent in the work of our SEND department. SEND students are actively enabled to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence and encouraged to accept responsibility for their behaviour, to show initiative and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely. We work with all students to encourage respect for other people and to encourage an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to develop positive values, understand their own beliefs and their place in a culturally diverse society. We give our students opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community and within the wider community. All students experience a connection with other cultures and beliefs through our RE curriculum, PHSE days and local, regional and international links. The emphasis on enterprise, working with others, and learning other languages directly contributes to the appreciation of others perspectives on life. Our Religious Studies curriculum follows the teaching of the Church in providing a broad and balanced education, which includes an understanding of and respect for people of other faiths or none and other religions, cultures and lifestyles. It provides students with a deep understanding of their own faith as well as an awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as a basis for understanding and respecting them. Stories such as The Good Samaritan and The Woman at the Well show how Jesus encouraged tolerance himself.

Other faiths and cultures are promoted through poems and books studied in English such as 'Moon on the Tide', 'Sunset on the Grass' and 'Something Old, Something New' which features a character who has converted from Catholicism to Islam. The Aspire Book Club has featured novels set in different times and places, and dystopian themes have been prevalent, where democracy and government has completely broken down. In technology the students study how design choices are affected by different cultures. In food students consider how British food is influenced by food from other countries and cultures as well as the ethics of consumer choice with regards to fair trade practices and organic products. In music lessons students discuss cultural issues such as slavery and its links to blues music. Indian dance and the Haka are taught as part of the dance curriculum. Both KS3 and KS4 RE look at other world faiths in addition to Christianity. St Antony' students and staff annually take part in the Trafford Holocaust Remembrance Service. Mohammed Amin, listed as one of the most influential Muslims in the UK, has been booked to speak to our students in March 2015.

The CES summarises the link between Catholic and British values below and St Antony's subscribes fully to this:

"We are proud that Catholic schools promote values that are both Catholic and British, including: respect for the individual, democracy, individual liberty, respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. Our schools promote cohesion by serving more ethnically diverse and poorer communities. Catholic schools provide high standards of education which are popular with parents from all social, economic and faith backgrounds." Paul Barber (Catholic Education Service 15 December 2014).