


Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (CMAT)



Fundamental British Values and our Catholic Ethos Policy

‘And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself..’ Luke 10:27

Approved by Chair of Governors	
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Our Mission and Values

‘Christ the King welcomes everyone in our community as we share the joys of our Faith. We worship, learn and play together in the love of Jesus, helping one another to develop the talents given to us by God.’

Jesus taught us to “love each other as I have loved you”. Our Gospel values focus our attention on that commandment. At Christ the King, we integrate the Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church into every aspect of learning, teaching and the life of our school community.

We recognise that for the children to fulfil their potential, the Gospel values need to be explicitly named, defined, modelled and for all pupils to be supported to understand how they relate to their lives both at school, at home and in society. At Christ the King, this enterprise is not in addition to the quest for academic success and high standards of behaviour but integral to it.

Contents

- 1 Policy details
- 2 Democracy
- 2 The Rule of Law
- 3 Individual Liberty
- 4 Mutual Respect
- 5 Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Supporting documents

Glossary of terms and abbreviations in this policy

1. Policy details

We are a Catholic Academy whose priority it is to ensure the very best Catholic Education for all young people in our community, whatever their circumstances. We promote these values by our words and deeds and Catholic doctrine and practice therefore permeates every aspect of the Academy's activities. We provide a Catholic curriculum, which is broad and balanced, recognising that every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (Gen 1:27).

The curriculum is designed to enable every pupil to find their vocation and to be well-equipped to follow it as active citizens in service to the world. Catholic Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" (Pope St John Paul II) and the foundation of the entire educational process.

The government set out its definition of 'British Values' in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011), which aims to address extremism and religious radicalisation of young people. British values are considered 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 because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

"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).

Within our Academy we recognise not only the importance of helping pupils to flourish academically but also spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We want our children to be fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens and 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 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. The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British values within our Academy and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

Democracy

Pupils at Christ the King are encouraged to have a voice. Opportunities to vote for school and class representatives are available to the pupils and the opinions of all are valued and welcomed. The children are encouraged to understand the civic duty and responsibility associated with casting a vote.

At Christ the King we demonstrate the importance of democracy with the following:

- Stakeholder voice
- House Captains
- School Council
- School Chaplains
- Eco Warriors and Friendship Warriors
- Class responsibilities
- Opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections

The Rule of Law

The children are taught about the importance of laws; whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country and these are consistently reinforced at Christ the King. Pupils are explicitly taught from an early age the school rules. These are codified in our school behaviour policy which details explicitly how pupils should behave in all areas of the school. These routines and expectations are explicitly taught so that they become positive habits. They are regularly reinforced and modelled by all member of staff.

Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws and how they govern and protect us. The children are taught to take personal responsibility and the consequences when laws are broken.

We also teach and follow God's rules -the 10 commandments.

Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

We demonstrate the importance of laws and rules with the following:

- School rules
- School policies
- Catholic Character Education
- Playground expectations
- Health and Safety policy
- Star of the week/Magnificent Missionaries

Individual Liberty

At Christ the King, pupils are actively encouraged to make independent choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make informed choices, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We encourage pupils to see themselves as unique individuals able to make a unique contribution to building community. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these.

We demonstrate this through the following:

- E safety, visit to the Warning Zone
- RSHE education
- Independent learning
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Pupil Voice
- Celebrating children unique gifts and talents
- The wide range of extra-curricular activities available to them

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is a core value at CTK and is modelled by pupils and staff alike. We explicitly teach how to show respect 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, pupils are always able to voice their opinions as we foster an environment where pupils can debate ideas and are safe to disagree with each other. We encourage pupils to develop 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 pupils to ensure that they look out for those who might be marginalised and disadvantaged. We take a strong stance on social inclusion and anti-bullying through an explicit focus on strategies to enable respect for difference.

Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect. Examples of this respect is learnt through the following:

- Anti-bullying
- Sanctions
- Rewards: Sportsmanship Trophy
- Charity Events
- Learning about other religions
- Mission Statement
- SEN policy
- Remembrance day
- Star of the week

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through equipping pupils with the ability to understand their own beliefs and the context of those beliefs within our diverse society. Christ the King is a school rich in diversity with students from all over the world. We actively promote diversity through our learning about different religions and cultures. Religious Education lessons and RSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children visit places of worship that are important to different religions. We illustrate our commitment to exploring our diverse school community by the following:

- Visits to places of worship and visitors of religions to the school
- Learning about other religions – mapped out across the school
- Mission Statement

Supporting documents

Link to government guidance: [Guidance on promoting British values in schools published - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/promoting-british-values-in-schools)