

British Values Statement



British Values at Upton Hall School FCJ

At Upton Hall School FCJ, we are proud to be a Catholic community that places the Gospel values at the heart of all we do. Inspired by the charism of the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), we are committed to nurturing each pupil as a unique individual, created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Our mission is to educate the whole person, forming compassionate, reflective and active citizens who are prepared to contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

We actively promote the fundamental British values of **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs** through our curriculum, our pastoral systems and our daily life as a school rooted in Catholic Social Teaching. These values are embedded across subjects, in our Flourish personal development programme, in our leadership opportunities and in the inclusive culture we cultivate for every member of our community.

Democracy

Pupils at Upton experience democracy in action through school-wide elections, such as voting for Form Reps, School Council representatives and the Head Students' Team. They are encouraged to contribute to decision-making and express their views respectfully through pupil voice activities, year group councils and participation in initiatives like the Wirral Youth Parliament.

Democratic principles are taught explicitly in Flourish, History and RE, where pupils explore the development of democratic government, the role of Parliament, voting systems, universal suffrage and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. A culture of respectful debate and open discussion is fostered in classrooms across the school, where pupils learn to articulate their views thoughtfully and consider the perspectives of others.

The Rule of Law

Pupils learn the importance of rules and laws as a framework for fairness, safety and justice. Our clear behaviour expectations, restorative approaches and consistent application of consequences help pupils understand accountability and moral responsibility.

Across the curriculum, the rule of law is explored in contexts such as the Magna Carta and Crime and Punishment (History), legal frameworks around online safety (Computer Science) and issues of justice and ethics (RE and Flourish). Pupils also engage with current legal issues, including laws relating to drugs, knife crime and terrorism. Through these learning experiences, pupils gain an understanding of how laws are made, upheld and challenged in a democratic society.

Individual Liberty

Within a safe and supportive environment, pupils are encouraged to make choices, reflect on their values and develop their independence. They explore the concept of free will in RE and are supported to understand their rights and responsibilities in society through Flourish and Computing, particularly in relation to online safety and peer influence.

Pupils are offered a wide range of enrichment activities and leadership roles that help them to grow in confidence. We promote a learning culture that empowers pupils to take initiative, express themselves appropriately and pursue their own aspirations, supported by a strong pastoral network.

Mutual Respect

Respect for self and others is a fundamental value at Upton Hall. Grounded in our belief in the dignity of each person, we encourage pupils to treat all members of the community with kindness, fairness and empathy.

This is reflected in the emphasis on respectful relationships in RE, Flourish and form time, and in our proactive approach to tackling bullying and discrimination, for example the Girls on Board approach. Pupils explore issues such as racism, homophobia, sexism and ableism from ethical and religious perspectives. Through charitable work, group collaboration and inclusive teaching across the curriculum, such as studying music and literature from a range of cultures, pupils develop a deeper appreciation of others and their contributions to society.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

As a Catholic school, we recognise and celebrate the richness of diversity. Pupils are taught to understand and respect different religious and philosophical beliefs through the RE curriculum, where they study Islam, Judaism and non-religious worldviews. They also encounter diverse perspectives in Flourish and History, including events such as Holocaust Memorial Day and the Year 9 World Religions Fair.

Our pupils are encouraged to embody the example of Jesus, who showed compassion to all, including those who were marginalised or of different backgrounds (e.g. the Parable of the Good Samaritan). Through this, they learn that tolerance is active expression of love, solidarity and understanding.

We believe that promoting British values is entirely compatible with our Catholic ethos. In doing so, we prepare our pupils to thrive in a diverse and democratic society and to be agents of change, justice and hope in the world.