

# St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College

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## British Values at St Bede's

St Bede's Catholic College has a strong culture of supporting its pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The details outlined below show some of the explicit ways in which British values are promoted within the college; staff also model British values of tolerance, respect and fair play in their dealings with pupils.

In November 2014, the Department for Education provided a list that describes the understanding and knowledge expected of pupils as a result of schools promoting fundamental British values.

This is given below:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety; an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence;
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

At St. Bede's Catholic College,

### Democracy

- Students and staff vote for Head Boy, Head Girl and senior prefect team
- We have a school council through which pupils are consulted and it can inform policy
- Mock elections are held during the cycle of Parliament
- Students are encouraged to debate issues within both curriculum and extra-curricular activities
- There is regular participation in external public speaking and competitions such as 'Catenian', the 'English Public Speaking Union' and 'Gabblers'.
- Democratic ideas, the rule of law and the development of British society are explored in a number of curriculum areas including Religious Formation, History and English
- Student voice is a feature of our college and we regularly ask for pupils views and listen and respond to them
- The college regularly invites a diverse range of speakers to contribute to assemblies and PSHE lessons
- Representative students visit the houses of parliament annually
- Pupils inform the selections of new teachers to the school



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## **The Rule of Law**

- Pupils are taught about the development of the Rule of Law in English Law and the legal system
- The code of conduct is explained to all new pupils and classes create their own rules that complement the code
- Outside agencies such as the police are invited to the college to reinforce the message of right and wrong
- The rules of the Church and God are emphasised in the Religious Formation curriculum to include the 10 commandments and the Precepts of the Church
- Law is an option for study at A level
- There is a Code of Conduct to which staff must adhere

## **Individual Liberty**

- We encourage students to develop resilience and independence
- We provide students with regular opportunities for reflection as they take responsibility to consider their vocation
- Pupils receive independent advice and guidance when considering career choices and further education
- Pupils are expected to abide by the school Code of Conduct; our response to those who deviate is always just, fair and proportional

## **Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

- Our mission statement is inclusive
- Respect is a right and the responsibility for its promotion is highlighted in every classroom
- We reinforce the value of everyone's opinions through a structured approach to class debates
- An effective anti-bullying policy is in place and adhered to by pupils
- We emphasise that every person is unique and "created in the image of God"
- Educational collaboration with other schools is in evidence
- Charitable work undertaken by our students and staff is extensive
- The Religious Formation programme provides pupils with a deep understanding of their own faith as well as awareness of and respect for the faith and traditions of other religious communities

Specific references to British Values within curriculum areas is available upon request from the College

Contact us via email: [contact@stbedescc.org](mailto:contact@stbedescc.org) or telephone 0117 377 2200

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