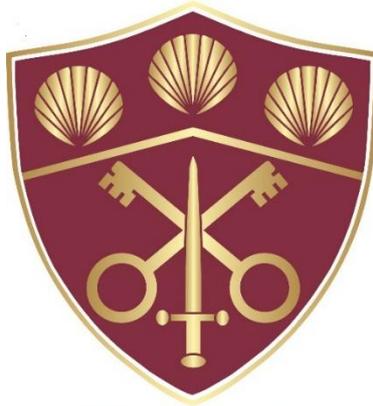


Ad Gloriam Dei et Servitium Omnium

Statement on British Values and Our Catholic Ethos

The Palmer Catholic Academy

MISSION STATEMENT



Ad Gloriam Dei et Servitium Omnium

The Academy's Mission promotes the academic and personal development of each member of its community, both students and staff alike.

We serve Christ in each other to the Glory of God and Service of all.



Adoption by Governing Body of The Palmer Catholic Academy:

Date of Implementation: November 2021

Signature of Chair of Governors:

Signature of Headteacher:

Review Date: When required

The Palmer Catholic Academy

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 because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

The Palmer Catholic Academy provides an excellent education for all its students. Our commitment to outstanding academic standards is reflected in high achievement in public examinations. Indeed, The Palmer Catholic Academy can now pride itself on being one of the highest performing schools in the country as well as in the local area.

Each student's spiritual and moral development is central to the work of the whole academy. We promote those genuine Christian values which develop our young people into tolerant, respectful, industrious, successful and good citizens and provide the preparation for life in British society. This is a modern academy with traditional values. We strive to create a harmonious and caring ethos, embracing the cultural diversity of our academy community.

The Palmer Catholic Academy provides an education which focuses on the formation of the whole person and on our vocation and purpose in life. We are guided by our mission statement to do everything 'For The Glory of God and Service of All'. We place a significant emphasis on the celebration of individuality and difference within our communities emphasising that every person is unique and "created in the image of God". Our Catholic ethos, which included 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 The Palmer Catholic Academy and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the academy, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout every day, as well as when dealing with behaviour 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. Some examples from our academy include our well-publicised behaviour and discipline policy, clear academy rules which are upheld and understood by us all, as well as highlighting the rules of the Church and God in the RE curriculum, including the 10 Commandments.

Democracy

British democratic values allow for systems to be changed and adapted through debate and elections, likewise within our academy students are encouraged frequently to engage in democratic processes. The School Council provides all students with the opportunity to take an active role with decision making and change. Leadership roles are promoted and all students are given the opportunities to both stand and vote from Head Boy and Head Girl, Liturgy Leaders as well as Form Captains. Our student voice ensures all students are listened to. Our students also actively engage in the Redbridge Youth Elections.

Individual Liberty

Students at The Palmer Catholic Academy are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. 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 a 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 computing and their tutor time activities.

Mutual Respect

The Palmer Catholic Academy 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 cooperation and consensus as well as decision making through voting. Our emphasis on Christian Care Compassion and Consideration (4C's) means that we ask our students to show good manners and mutual respect for everyone within our academy and greater community. The academy has taken a very 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. Other examples within our academy include class debates, long standing links with other schools and colleges. An integral aspect of our academy is our charitable work and donations throughout the academic year. Peer mentoring is a well-established part of our academy.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to develop positive values, understanding their own beliefs and their place in a culturally diverse society. We give our students the opportunities to exercise such diversity within the academy community and within the wider community. All students experience a connection with other cultures and beliefs through our RE programme, International Evening 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 RE curriculum follows the teaching of the Church in providing a broad and balanced education,

which includes an understanding of and respect for people other than faiths or none and other and other religions, cultures and lifestyles.

This statement has been written in conjunction with guidance from

DEF document – Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools Departmental advice for maintained schools, November 2014

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC Guidance Maintained Schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf)

Catholic Education Service –

Catholic values and ‘British Values’

Practical Advice from the Catholic Education Service

February 2015

<http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/british-values/item/download/14853d0b0af5974f872479db47b2bccd3e9b0>