RESPECT



‘Do to others as you would have them do to you.’

Matthew 7.12



Respect

At SSSJ, we understand that we are all special, and we celebrate our differences. Respect is a core value within our school as it is the foundation stone of relationships within our community. We learn to value ourselves, each other and the wider community through honesty, tolerance and trust where everyone has equal right to our time and attention.

What makes 'respect' a distinctively Christian value?

Respect is a core Christian value deeply rooted in biblical teachings. The Bible emphasises the importance of respect in various scriptures, highlighting it as a reflection of God's character and the intrinsic worth He places on human life. For instance, 1 Peter 2:17 urges believers to "Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor," illustrating the broad application of respect within Christian conduct. This directive encompasses a universal respect for all people, recognising each individual as a creation in the image of God, deserving of dignity and consideration. Furthermore, the concept of respect aligns with the teachings of Jesus, particularly the Golden Rule stated in Matthew 7:12: "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." This principle guides Christians to treat others with the same level of respect and kindness they desire for themselves, fostering a community of harmony and mutual care. Respect, therefore, is not just an admirable quality but a fundamental aspect of Christian ethics, shaping interactions and relationships in a manner that honours both God and humanity.

Scripture

The story of the Roman centurion in the Bible, as recounted in Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10, exemplifies the Christian value of respect in several profound ways. The centurion, a high-ranking Roman officer, demonstrates humility and respect for Jesus' authority by acknowledging his own unworthiness and Jesus' power to heal with just a word. His faith and recognition of authority, despite being a man of power himself, show a deep respect not only for Jesus but also for the natural order and hierarchy established by God. This narrative aligns with the Christian teaching that all individuals are created in the image of God and are therefore deserving of respect, as stated in 1 Peter 2:17. The centurion's actions reflect the biblical injunction to show proper respect to everyone, which is rooted in love, humility, and obedience—core virtues in Christian teachings. By valuing his servant's life and seeking help, the centurion also upholds the dignity of every human being, regardless of their social status, which is a direct application of the Christian command to love and respect one's neighbour as oneself.