



GODFREY ERMEN MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Road, Eccles, Manchester, M30 7BJ

Email: godfreyermen.ceprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk

Telephone: 0161 399 1416

Headteacher: Miss J Kinch

Chair of Governors: Cllr John Mullen

Web: www.gems-salford.co.uk

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs G Stanger

St Michael's Church Rector: Fr Ian Hall



Thursday, 14th August, 2025

Dear Families,

We have been made aware of a post that has been circulated on social media regarding our School of Sanctuary Status.

Firstly, we would like to make you aware that the post contains information that is untrue about our school. Whilst we have achieved the School of Sanctuary status, alongside a number of schools in Salford and beyond, we have never breached any safeguarding policies in relation to this achievement.

Secondly, we are using this opportunity to provide you with information that is relevant and clear in relation to the misinformation circulated.

It was suggested that children had taken part in an activity for Valentine's Day that involved writing or sending cards directly to strangers. We would like to clarify that this did not happen in our school, in line with school safeguarding policies. Our work has remained focused on our school values and the way that we can welcome new families into our own school community.

School of Sanctuary means our school has shown a clear commitment to making sure every child and family feels welcomed, safe, and supported to thrive. Safeguarding is our highest priority.

The Schools of Sanctuary programme is not political — it simply helps schools to understand why people seek safety and to lead with kindness and humanity. We are in no way affiliated to any political group and do not seek to be involved in politics or petitions. During this process, we have thought carefully about the activities and content that we have shared with the children and have been mindful to avoid any political viewpoint within this work. Below details some of the activities and work that we have done with our children.

Our children have learnt what the word "sanctuary" and "welcome" means through assemblies, class discussions and through the stories that we read as part of our already existing curriculum. They have learnt what the terms "refugee" and "asylum" means in an age-appropriate context. Children have learnt about the challenges that children and families can face in order for them to recognise the support and care they can show each other when new families arrive in our school community, who bring with them a range of lived experiences.

We have children trained to be "Ambassadors of Welcome" – which means that they are supportive of newly arrived pupils in school and are a face of welcome when a child may

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Thessalonians 1 5:11



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feel nervous or anxious about a new school or place. These ambassadors promote our values and welcome families of all nationalities and backgrounds. These are values that underpin our wider school ethos.

We are proud to be a school where every child feels safe, where individual needs are understood, and where pupils are equipped to be kind and thoughtful members of our community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Kinch".

Miss J Kinch
Headteacher

Cllr Mullen

Cllr J Mullen
Chair of Governors

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