

Family values

It can be said that grandparents and the elderly have a significant impact on the values that people cherish and live their lives by. Personally, I was lucky enough to grow up with beautiful grandparents. Fortunately, the wisdom and positive values of not only my grandparents but other older family members as well have created and shaped the values that I treasure and live my life by.

When reflecting on my grandparents, the first thing that comes to mind is the impact of family values and priorities that emerge from growing up surrounded by loving and caring grandparents. When I was in high school, I asked my Nan what impact religion had on her life, to which she responded that 'the values of Christ, such as being loving, caring, non-judgemental, the belief in the importance and dignity of each person, the caring for the environment, recognising that the world is still evolving and that we are part of that world, and are all connected, all impact how I live and think.'



Looking back, these values are a common theme within my family, on both sides, these values stand out. I believe the impact of grandparents' beliefs and values transfers through generations by both actions and words. I have vivid memories of when I was young and my Gran would take us for walks near her house. Regularly, she would bring a plastic bag and pick up rubbish on the side of the road as she went. She explained the importance of keeping the environment clean and not creating messes. This has made me appreciate our environment and created a core value for not just me but also my siblings and other people we have an impact on.

I have been fortunate enough to have been surrounded by loving, caring and non-judgemental grandparents and older people growing up and their positive values will continue to influence my perspective and character as I grow older and make decisions throughout my life. I hope one day that I will have the same positive influence on my family as my Grandparents have had on our family.

Monica Sheehan

