

Great Marsden St. John's British Values Statement

2021/22.

The DfE have reinforced the need

“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

We believe that by exposing children to a broad and balanced Curriculum, which is firmly rooted in our Christian values and well planned SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development), we will equip children for life in a diverse, rapidly changing world. The overtly taught curriculum is underpinned by our discrete curriculum which is based upon strong relationships, tolerance, responsibility and respect. Our English, History, RE and PSHE curriculum have been planned to embrace a richness of texts, topics which promote tolerance and respect plus equality and diversity. As a Church of England school, worship plays a central role. Hence, each of the above named values are both ‘taught and caught’ by all our children.

Democracy

An understanding of the democratic process is developed at the beginning of each academic year. Our first week in school is a week devoted to settling children back into class and all the social skills that this demands. Each class develops their own class Charter and guidelines which they believe will make their class a happy and purposeful learning environment. Children are encouraged to express their opinions, debate pros and cons and ultimately come to a consensus. All children are involved.

At St. John's we have four houses—Marsden, Gawthorpe, Towneley and Wycollar. Each house has a vice and house captain selected from Year 6. The candidates have to write a manifesto and deliver a speech to the members of staff who then vote. Similarly our School Council is democratically elected by their peers. We borrow the polling booths and voting boxes from our local council to really give children a flavour of being a citizen with a vote. Children are also, at an age appropriate level, made aware that this is not the same all around the world.

The rule of law

We explain to our children that our school and class rules are there to keep people safe, to guide behaviour choices and to provide an ordered environment for learning

and life. They are to be observed by all regardless of individual views—just as all people living in England are subject to its law. Our Behaviour Policy and its underlying principles encourage children to develop a clear understanding of the relationship between actions and consequences. At all times and in all things we promote self regulation and personal responsibility. We believe that these fundamental values and experiences help to develop an appreciation of the wider rule of law in England and the world today.

Individual liberty

We believe that the previous two values go hand in hand in developing an understanding of individual liberty. We encourage our children to be open minded, reflective thinkers with a well guided moral compass. We talk about the fact that we, as human beings, make hundreds of choices every day and that many of these choices impact, positively or otherwise, on others. Children are actively encouraged to develop a ‘think before you act’ approach, which can be tried and tested within a safe and supportive environment. Our framework of school and class rules, underpinned by our Behaviour Policy, provide a clear and present structure within which children can learn to balance their personal rights with the rights of others. Children are advised on how they can exercise their rights and personal freedoms safely through our E-Safety work, PSHE and the whole school Christian ethos. Our robust anti-bullying culture ensures that children feel safe and secure to express themselves as unique individuals without fear.

Mutual respect

This is at the heart of all our relationships at St. John’s. It is modelled by all adults in their relationships with each other, the children, parents and wider community. Via these positive role models, our children can hear the language and see the actions first hand. Hence respect becomes a living and breathing thing that can be emulated by even the youngest of our children.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

St John’s is in Nelson, Lancashire, an area which is home to people of many different faiths and beliefs. As a school, we are predominantly white British but some of our school family are of Asian or Eastern European descent. Our curriculum gives our children a chance to explore how and why Nelson came to be such a diverse society. Through learning in RE and PSHE, as well as through the innate ethos of the school, we aim to inform all children about our shared human experiences. We believe that

true tolerance comes through an appreciation of what makes us all similar and a celebration of what makes us unique.

True British Values in action

In March 2018, we achieved the prestigious Lancashire Equality Mark awarded. It is awarded to schools who have taken measures to embed Equality throughout their practice with the goal of enabling all pupils to thrive in a supportive learning community. The Equality Mark comprises five individual Equality Badges:

Race Equality Badge

Gender Equality Badge

Disability Equality Badge

Sexual Orientation Equality Badge

Religion and Belief Equality Badge

Prevent and Safeguarding.

Robust safeguarding procedures begin with adults having these strong relationships with our children, so that subtle changes in mood, behaviour and attitude can be picked up on and addressed with sensitivity and compassion. In this way any safeguarding concerns, whether these are related to emotional, physical or sexual abuse, neglect, bullying, extremism/radicalisation or any other factor which impacts on the child's wellbeing, can be attended to in a timely and appropriate manner. At St. John's we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

All staff and Governors have undertaken online Channel training and we have revisited this through a 7 Minute Safeguarding Briefing.

Reviewed September 2021

