

# **Holy Family Catholic High School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre**



## **British Values Policy**

## British Values at Holy Family Catholic High School

From September 2014, the DfE requires all schools to promote the historical and current values that underpin British National Identity. Within this, all schools are required to ensure that the curriculum actively promotes these fundamental British values.

Schools will be expected to focus on, and be able to show, how our work with pupils is effective in embedding fundamental British values.

What are British values defined as:

- Respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process
- Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Individual liberty, support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religions and other beliefs

What does 'Actively promote ...' mean?

- Focus on, and show how, the school's work is effective in securing these values
- Challenging pupils, parents and carers who express opinions contrary to British values

### **Promoting British values at Holy Family**

We agree with the Department for Education's five-part definition of British values:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Holy Family students will encounter these principles throughout everyday school life. The curriculum is mapped in detail across the whole school. Listed below are some examples of how we promote these values in our school community:

### **Democracy**

Pupil voice is significant in regards to life at Holy Family. Our student leadership team plays a strong role in our school. Some are elected by their class peers and are involved in making the school a better place to learn. Pupils have a great amount of input in regards to what and how they learn, which promotes pupil voice. For example, all subject areas carry out a student voice questionnaire. Teachers then analyse and reflect on the results and this is used in teacher's future planning.

We know that the structure of the student leadership programme and the active participation of our students will develop students understanding of democracy in the future.

### **The Rule of Law**

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to. This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum. The involvement of our pupils in the creation of the school rules helps them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken. Through philosophical enquiry in our philosophy for learning lessons, we allow opportunity to debate and discuss the reasons for laws so that children can recognise the importance of these for their own protection. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community including the police, war veterans, the fire brigade and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.

### **Individual Liberty**

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. We encourage children to choose the pathways that will challenge them, giving them more freedom to determine their own learning and we offer a wide range of options at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. We offer a wide range of clubs and school trips which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. We believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will encourage a value for individual liberty when they leave Holy Family.

### **Mutual respect**

Mutual respect is at the heart of our school life. Students learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is reinforced through the schools 'PRIDE expectations. Evidence of mutual respect can be recognised in all aspects of school life when walking around the school during lunch/break times and in the classrooms.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

At Holy Family we promote the multicultural city that are students live in visiting places around our city to promote tolerance. We offer a diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected. We promote tolerance in daily

collective worship. We believe that giving students knowledge about other faiths and beliefs helps with their understanding and therefore they are able to demonstrate tolerance

### Teaching and Learning

Every school is expected to ensure that its curriculum enables the pupils to explore what it means to be British.

Within this, schools are encouraged to develop the pupils' ability to:

- describe their own identities and the groups that they feel they belong to;
- recognise different identities and experiences;
- appreciate that identity consists of many factors;
- recognise that each person's identity is unique and can change;
- begin to understand the idea of stereotypes.