

British Values

Promoting fundamental British values at Our Lady & Saint Thomas Catholic Primary School.

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world'.

NELSON MANDELA

In accordance with The Department for Education, we aim to actively promote British Values within our school to ensure young people leave school prepared for life as a citizen within in the UK. Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance and understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in the UK are subject to its law in order to maintain order and equality.

The Key British Values are:

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

This short You Tube clip explains them in more detail:



At OLST, while we teach about British values discretely within our PSHE lessons, such is the importance of these values, that they are interwoven through other subjects at every available opportunity. We use the symbol of a hand to help the children remember British values.

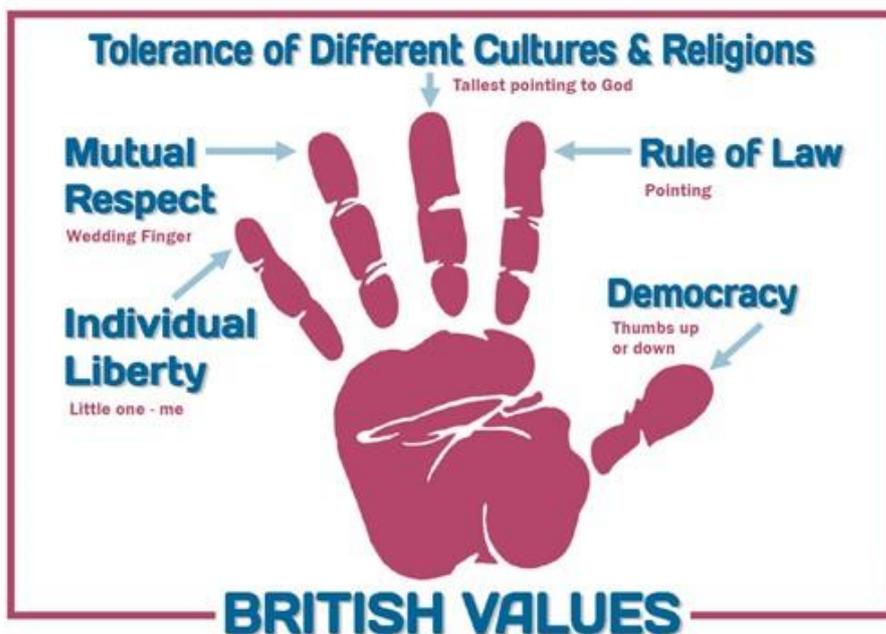
Thumb – Democracy – a thumb can be placed up or down to give opinion. This is the simplest form of democracy – being able to share your own thoughts. This country is governed through a democratic voting process.

Index finger – Rule of Law – In order to keep a society, school or home ordered and safe, there needs to be rules / guidance / laws which enable people to know what to do. This keeps everyone safe and happy.

Middle finger – Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs – tallest finger points to God. Our Christian faith upon which our school is built, states that all humans are to be respected and seen as equal regardless of our differences.

Ring Finger – Mutual respect is denoted by this finger and is a reminder that respect for others is fundamental to the way in which our society functions.

Little finger – Individual Liberty – sticks out on its own. We all have the right to our freedom – no one human overrides another.



We actively promote British values through:

Focusing on and showing how the school's work is effective in securing these values

Challenging pupils, staff, visitors or parents who express opinions contrary to British values

Displaying British values in our own everyday practice

Seeking opportunities to consolidate pupil understanding of British Values through current events

Democracy – what do we do?

- Class voting for the election of school councillors at the start of the year;
- Annual school wide campaign and election for our head pupils;
- Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services;
- Teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- Taught through assemblies and our school curriculum;
- Teach a dedicated topic on the civil rights movement (Black History) in Year 6
- Encourage pupils to become involved in decision-making processes and ensure they are listened to in school;
- Help pupils to express their views;
- Model how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged;
- All pupils involved in establishing rules and expectations at beginning of each school year.

Rule of law – what do we do?

- Ensure school rules and expectations are clear and fair;
- Daily acknowledgement of adhering to these rules;
- Help pupils to distinguish right from wrong;
- Help pupils to respect the law and the basis on which it is made;
- Help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals;
- Explore within our Personal Development Lessons laws and what to do if peer pressure is trying to persuade children to break these;
- Promote the Rights Respecting School Articles (on policies, around school, in assemblies etc);
- Regular visits from our Police force to talk about criminal acts pertinent to the area – eg recent Arson attacks in the community;
- Promote idea of restorative justice when dealing with incidents of rule breaking.

Individual liberty – what do we do?

- Support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem, self-confidence;
- Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights;
- Model freedom of speech through pupil participation, while ensuring protection of vulnerable pupils and promoting critical analysis of evidence;
- Challenge stereotypes;
- Implement a strong anti-bullying culture;
- E-Safety units of work are taught throughout school and parents and staff receive training on these;
- Guide children to understand the concept of individual liberty through our History units, not shying away from those issues for which we denied others their liberty in the past but also acknowledging that Britain also can be viewed as instrumental in the downfall of such practices such as slavery;
- Acknowledgement that there are some countries in the world who do not allow individual liberty and that children should understand this is something we must protect at all costs.

Mutual Respect and tolerance of different cultures and religions– what do we do?

- As a faith school rooted in Catholic traditions, our pupils are taught that ALL humans are created in the image of God and that it is our mission to ensure that God’s love is shared with all regardless of our differences;
- Through lessons and assemblies, we explore the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equality Act to promote respect for individual differences and to actively challenge stereotypes;
- Use current world events to explore critical news events (e.g. terrorist attacks, Black Lives Matter etc);
- Explore positive role models, through our curriculum subjects, who reflect the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equality Act;
- Challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour;
- Organise visits to places of worship;
- Seek awareness of and celebration for, a wide range of religious festivals and feasts especially those which are pertinent to the differing religions of pupils within school at any given time as well as others such as Eid and Diwali;
- Our RE scheme ensures that our children have a good understanding of a range of religious beliefs and customs;
- Help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life;
- Teach children that it is acceptable to disagree with others but that this should be done in a respectful way and not with the assumption that our views are the only important ones.

As a school which roots its values and virtues within the Catholic faith, we endeavour to guide our pupils to understand that while these values are fundamental to British society and the strength and well-being of the differing communities within this country, they are also human values, and it is important to think about these values and how they evolve as we do.

At OLST we believe that education is about helping people understand how things work and how to challenge and change them for the better. Values are formed together and not imposed. It is essential therefore, that in guiding children through an ever-increasing knowledge and understanding of British Values, that we understand and appreciate that these views may be different than those held at home. Our school environment should be a safe space in which children are able to explore, analyse and finally understand why these values are so fundamental in modern Britain.