



## Sacred Heart School

### Promoting British Values Policy

*At Sacred Heart School we all aspire to provide a happy, safe and secure environment in which every child is encouraged to achieve their full potential.*

*This policy is applicable to all pupils, including those in EYFS.*

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## ***To be read in conjunction with the school's Mission Statement and our Prevent Policy***

From 1 July 2015, all schools and childcare providers must have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. The government has defined extremism in the Prevent strategy as "vocal or active opposition to fundamental **British Values**, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs." At Sacred Heart School, these values are an integral part of the school ethos, woven into our Catholic life and reinforced regularly and in the following ways:



### **Democracy:**

Democracy is promoted within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through a number of pupil voice groups: School Council, CAFOD and Charities Club, Growing in Faith Together (GIFT), Digital Leaders and Laudato Si, as well as pupil questionnaires. The elections for these pupil voice groups are based on pupil votes until Year 6 where children who have not had the opportunity to serve may do so if they wish. Each teacher has different ways in which the pupils make their voices heard in their classroom e.g. through circle time, including questionnaires, discussions, decisions over classroom rules, voting on matters arising etc. In upper KS2 pupils learn about democratic processes in parliament. We aim to challenge injustice through our curriculum and charitable works e.g. we promote and support the work of CAFOD and our local Food Bank. We learn about the lives of people such as Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks.



### **The Rule of Law:**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days and through school assemblies. The children are taught right from wrong and are taught the value and reasons behind laws; that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire Service, a member of the judiciary etc. are regular features of the school calendar and help reinforce this message. Each class negotiates and displays its own set of rules, and these are referred to and celebrated through assemblies and behaviour codes in all aspects of school life.



### **Individual Liberty:**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our Online-Safety, RSE and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. All classes work towards incentives such as 'Golden Time' where their choices affect outcomes for themselves personally as well as the whole class. We also try to give ownership of learning to the children and promote a personal investigative approach. At break and lunch times the children are allowed to use the outside spaces according to their personal choices – weather permitting.

Our shared values in the school promote both staff and children as good role models and we take opportunities to challenge stereotypes whenever the opportunity arises. Opportunities are also taken to develop the understanding that with individual liberty and freedom comes responsibilities to oneself, to the local community and the wider world.



### **Mutual Respect:**

Our school ethos and Behaviour Policy has evolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Displays throughout the school promote respect for self and others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our Discipline and Behaviour Policy. The children provide a buddy system whereby they promote respect and friendships. In accordance with the Mission Statement, all staff model and promote positive and supportive relationships. Our Equality and Inclusion policy reflects this core value and professional development explores how to engender a respectful ethos. We support events such as Anti Bullying Week through our focus weeks, such as 'Kindness Week' and 'Focus on Friendship'. We also invite Anti Bullying Ambassadors from a local secondary school to talk with our children and raise awareness.

We promote respect through Circle Time and there is a strong emphasis on reconciliation. We provide opportunities for children to learn to respect others through our curriculum enrichment days e.g. study units and visits from people from other cultures and traditions or visits to places of worship for other faiths e.g. to a local mosque or the virtual visit of a Rabbi. Opportunities to learn about and appreciate other cultures include teaching and learning about France and, to a lesser extent, Spain. We promote respect through having an active Accessibility Plan and we promote inclusion across the curriculum with a particular focus in PSHE. We support charities which promote respect, understanding and equality of opportunity e.g. CAFOD.



### Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Discussions around prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. We celebrate festivals throughout the year from all the world religions. Visitors into school enhance our understanding. As part of our RE curriculum we focus on other faiths including Judaism, Hinduism and Islam to promote understanding and acceptance.

Our Mission Statement underpins everything that we do, encapsulating 'British Values' through the Gospel Values of inclusivity, equality of opportunity and mutual respect on which the school community is built.

