



St. Aidan's Primary School-A Church of England Academy

PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. The DfE have recently reinforced the need for schools to ensure that the curriculum...

"Actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs".

At St. Aidan's we are committed to upholding these values. We ensure that they are reinforced regularly through teaching and learning which has a clear focus on enabling pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Our SIAMS report (June 2011) noted that: *'pupils' personal development is good. They enjoy taking on responsibilities such as acting as play buddies and preparing the hall for worship. They co-operate well and show a genuine interest in developing their skills and abilities.'*

DEMOCRACY

Respect for democracy, democratic participation and active involvement of all pupils is evident across the school. We aim to provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services. Our aim is to teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process. For example: Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard and are able to express their views freely through our Pupil questionnaires, pupil teacher conferencing and School Council. The elections of School Council representatives each year are based solely on pupil votes (which helps to highlight some of the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain). This effective involvement of pupils in democratic procedures enables them to influence and make decisions in matters which affect their lives within school. Indeed our Ofsted report (February 2014) stated that:

'Pupils happily take on a range of responsibilities, such as being a member of the school council or supporting the behaviour of younger pupils at lunchtime. They carry out their roles conscientiously and take pride in what they do. In so doing, they enhance the life of the school and give all pupils a voice in how the school develops.'

From January 2015 a debating society will be established for children in Year 6.

Our school behaviour policy involves rewards and sanctions which the pupils vote on and so can facilitate understanding of wider issues within the context of learning about the values on which our society is founded and our system of democratic government.

Our SIAMS report (June 2011) noted that: *Behaviour is good because children have a very clear understanding of the school rules, which are based on respect and trust, and the reward systems. Although they disagree with each other sometimes, they know how to 'say sorry and forgive each other' because, as one pupil described, "It is one of our*

Christian values."

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, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught to have respect for the basis on which the law is made and how the law is applied in England. We aim to teach children the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect all of us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community and from public institutions such as the Police, the Fire Service and the Mayor's office to help reinforce the importance of the Rule of Law for our pupils. We ensure that school rules and expectations are clear and fair and our pupils understand that rules are there to protect us just as living under the rule of law protects all individuals.

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

We support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety, Life Skills lessons, Friendship Weeks, Children's University, Stay Safe Week and menu choices. Pupils are taught to respect the rights of others and to consider their responsibilities toward other people including taking responsibility for their behaviour. Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely through provision of a safe and secure environment and empowering education.

Whether it is through choice of challenge, or of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. We welcome freedom of speech through pupil participation, while ensuring protection of vulnerable pupils and challenging stereotyping of others. We implement and actively promote a strong anti-bullying culture and invite visitors into school, such as *Unique Voice*, to support our behaviour and anti-bullying policies.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around our school's mission statement, 'Fulfilling potential, growing in God' and our Curriculum Drivers of promoting independence in others, raising aspirations, developing a sense of community and continual enhancement. In addition to this, our Christian Values of *thankfulness, trust, forgiveness, humility, friendship and endurance* are used as themes for worship. Pupils are expected to show mutual respect towards everything and everyone, regardless of individual differences, at all times. Indeed one of our school rules is '*...to show respect to everyone*'. All children, adults and visitors are expected to behave respectfully and we will challenge anybody who displays prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. Pupils take part in assemblies and class discussions related to what this means and how it is shown.

TOLERANCE OF THOSE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS

We help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life. This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding, through the curriculum, of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving pupils opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving identifying and combating discrimination, prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and Life Skills (PSHCE). Our school is part of a

local network of schools which enables children of different faiths, cultures and backgrounds to meet and socialise through a range of different learning opportunities. We encourage children to participate in a wide range of events and provide opportunities for pupils to serve the wider community in order to nurture tolerance and harmony, understanding and respect between all members of our society.

Rachel Senior
Headteacher
December 2014

REFERENCES:

DfE, September 2014 School Inspection Handbook: Handbook for inspecting schools in England under section 5 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended by the Education Act 2011), No. 120101 Crown Copyright 2014

*HM Government home office 07/06/2011 Policy paper: Prevent Strategy 2011
Ref: ISBN 9780101809221 Crown Copyright*

Ofsted Report: St. Aidan's Church of England Primary School- February 2014

SIAMS Report: St. Aidan's Church of England Primary School- June 2011

*Rowe, D. (2001) A brief guide - Democracy in Schools and the Local Community,
Citizenship Foundation*