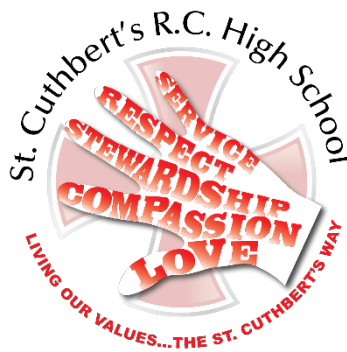




St. Cuthbert's
Roman Catholic High School

WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY & PROCEDURES

BRITISH VALUES AND OUR CATHOLIC ETHOS



Mission Statement

*'The Lord God requires of us that we should help others whenever we can,
always make the right choices and be the best that we can be in everything that we do'.*

Policy: British Values and Our Catholic Ethos		
Type: School Policy	Website: Yes	Author: CM Hunt
Approved: September 2021	Next Review: September 2022	
Frequency: Annual	Delegated: Governors or Committee	
Notes:		

The Government set out its definition of ‘British values’ in the ‘Prevent Strategy’ (2011), which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalization of young people. British values are considered by the present government to be **democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**. The promotion of ‘British values’ is central to Catholic education because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

We are proud that Catholic schools promote values that are both Catholic and British, including: respect for the individual, democracy, individual liberty, respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. Our schools promote cohesion by serving more ethnically diverse and poorer communities. Catholic schools provide high standards of education which are popular with parents from all social, economic and faith backgrounds.”

Paul Barber (Catholic Education Service 15 December 2014).

At Saint Cuthbert’s we recognise, not only the importance of helping pupils to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the Common Good of all. We teach the importance of British Values by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian Values. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why *British Values* are important. Our framework for understanding British values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all, which is developed in Catholic Social Teaching. (*Gaudium et Spes*). At Saint Cuthbert’s we provide an education which focuses on the formation of the whole person and on our vocation and purpose in life.

We are guided by the Christian values of honourable purpose (that is, vocation and service), respect, compassion, co-operation and stewardship as we reflect on our place and purpose in the world. We place a significant emphasis on the celebration of individuality and difference within our communities and our calling to work for the Common Good, in the service of others. Our Catholic ethos makes a tangible difference to the way we work together and with our wider communities. Within this framework it would be impossible to overlook the government’s view of British values expressed as ‘democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.’ The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed *British values* at Saint Cuthbert’s Catholic High School and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

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 every day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through assemblies and collective worship. The curriculum is designed to ensure pupils are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

“A particularly strong feature of St Cuthbert’s is how staff and pupil relationships bear witness to Christian values of justice, compassion, forgiveness and love. There is clear evidence of Gospel values in policies and procedures across the school. Pupil voice reinforces Christian values supporting the faith life of the school. Faith in action allows pupils and staff to live their faith through charity fundraising events.”

Diocese of Salford 2016

Individual Liberty Within Saint Cuthbert’s Catholic High School pupils are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure 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 an empowering education. We encourage pupils to see themselves as unique individuals able to make a unique contribution to building community. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety work and their form time activities. The Skills for Life programme studied by all students addresses all aspects of individual liberty.

“The curriculum and spiritual, moral, social and cultural provision are very strong and meet the needs and interests of students well. Students are very appreciative of the wide range of clubs and visits on offer to them. They raise large sums of money for charities. They participate successfully in many sporting events and many take up the opportunity to be sports leaders.

Ofsted 2014

Mutual Respect Respect is one of the five core values of our School and is modelled by pupils and staff alike. The school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments as well as extra-curricular activities such as sport. In line with our commitment to democracy, pupils are always able to voice their opinions as we foster an environment where pupils can debate ideas and are safe to disagree with each other. We encourage pupils to substantiate opinions and to realise the value of co-operation and consensus as well as decision making through voting. Our emphasis on ethics, fairness and justice means that we ask our pupils to ensure that they look out for those who might be marginalised and disadvantaged. This includes a significant undertaking with regards to charitable works at both Advent and Easter. The School has taken a very strong stance on social inclusion and anti-bullying through an explicit focus on strategies to enable respect for difference through, for example, reflections on homophobia and other forms of bullying. Once again, the Skills for Life programme will address all of these issues and aspects of education.

“An exceptionally high level of respect for, care of and service to others, as people made in the image and likeness of God, is provided by a very high quality pastoral team comprising of staff with diverse responsibilities: deputy head pastoral, two safe-guarding officers, pastoral manager, five heads of year, form tutors, a lay chaplain, SEND department, Inclusion unit (the DEN) and a school counsellor. The DEN, which is the school’s Discover, Educate and Nurture centre, is a school resource which is greatly valued by pupils, staff and parents and makes a major contribution in the way the school seeks to deliver its mission. All these different agencies converge to ensure pupils are happy and safe within their school community.”

Diocese of Salford 2016

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs This is achieved through equipping pupils with the ability to develop positive values, understand their own beliefs and their place in a culturally diverse society. We give our pupils opportunities to experience such diversity within the School community and within the wider community. All pupils experience a connection with other cultures and beliefs through Religious Education, theme days and local, regional and international links. The emphasis on enterprise, working with others, and learning other languages directly contributes to the appreciation of others perspectives on life. Our Religious Studies curriculum follows the teaching of the Church in providing a broad and balanced education, which includes an understanding of and respect for people of other faiths or none and other religions, cultures and lifestyles.

“There is a culture of welcome and all pupils and staff demonstrate a very high level of confidence and outreach to all within the school community; recognising, valuing and celebrating diversity at all levels. Diversity is celebrated, ensuring everyone is treated with dignity and respect. In all personal relationships everyone is treated with dignity, respect and love.

Diocese of Salford 2016