



*'Growing, loving and learning in the arms of Mary'*

# British Values Statement

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## **Preparing Children for Modern Life in Britain**

As a Catholic school our ethos is to uphold the values of the Gospel: respect for the life and dignity of each individual; trust in God; honesty; compassion; forgiveness; mercy; community; servant leadership; equality; justice and peace. These values are embedded in all that we teach and are promoted in all of our interactions with others in the school and the wider community.

Our Mission Statement has Jesus at the heart of everything we do. We live out our faith and show we care for one another by sharing our love of Jesus with everyone.

We fully recognise and embrace the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom and are committed to ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School has a clear Equality policy which aims to prevent discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status or similar. St Mary's Catholic Primary School also seeks to lay the foundations for our pupils' future lives, beyond the formal curriculum, preparing them for the diverse and dynamic society in which they will live and work. An understanding of British values is a critical part of this education.

The Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 'Prevent' strategy and the Department for Education has reinforced the need 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values'. Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to these values, which are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Many of these values are embedded within our Catholic ethos and mission, but in addition St Mary's Catholic Primary School uses strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure pupils' understanding of the wider implications of British values. The examples that follow show some of the ways in which St Mary's Catholic Primary School seeks to embed British values.

## **Democracy**

Elections are held for a male and female school council representative in each class. This fosters the concept of freedom of speech and group action to address need and concerns. Within their classes, pupils are able to vote to make choices brought to them by these representatives.

Pupils are also able to make their views known via our Pupil Questionnaires. Pupils explore the principle of democracy in age-appropriate assemblies. Older pupils run mock elections and learn about the mechanism of government in the UK, helping them to develop an understanding of the vital importance of democracy in securing a fair society where everyone has a voice. Our School Council is elected through a democratic system of voting providing a 'voice' for all pupils. Pupils are given the opportunity to have their 'voices' heard through pupil questionnaires and in Year 6 through being a head boy/ head girl or a prefect.

**The Rule of Law** The school has a clear behaviour management policy and high standards of behaviour of both pupils and staff are expected by the Governing Body. The rights and responsibilities of every pupil are emphasised through our Schools Code of Behaviour – 3 rules. In our classrooms the rights and responsibilities of the pupils are made explicit.

Through our assemblies, collective worship, liturgies and circle time, we teach respect for all, right and wrong, tolerance, respect and following the law. Visits from community services, the Police and Fire Service are used to reinforce these messages. Pupils are shown how they can contribute to the well-being of those in the locality and beyond, through many events such as visiting the elderly and supporting charities eg Salvation Army, CAFOD, Fairtrade.

We aim to ensure that our pupils have the knowledge and confidence to withstand attempts to radicalise them by alerting them to the intolerance that is inherent in all extremist viewpoints.

Through the use of aspects of Restorative Practice we consider the harm that has been done and on how it might be mended. Our RE and PSHE curricula recognise and underline the importance of the ideas, feelings and needs of others. Assemblies emphasise that we are all equal under the law and that it is not only wrong, but illegal to discriminate against others on the basis of characteristics such as disability, gender, race or faith.

## **Individual liberty**

Pupils at St Mary's Catholic Primary School are encouraged to know and understand their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, e.g. through our E-Safety policy, SRE and PSHE curricula, circle times and assemblies. Pupils are encouraged to exercise their right to free speech by articulating their views to their School Council Representatives.

They also use the pupil 'Worry Box' to share concerns about issues, alerting school leaders and initiating a productive dialogue. This builds up a strong sense of trust, because pupils know that adults take their concerns seriously, that they will listen and, where necessary, take action. We aim to ensure that pupils know their rights, but also that they are aware of the responsibilities that they entail. Teachers and other staff endeavour to set clear, consistent boundaries so that pupils can make informed choices in a safe, secure and supportive environment. St Mary's Catholic Primary School has clear Anti-bullying and Behaviour policies that are openly shared with every member of our community. The children can volunteer to take on a number of roles within the school e.g. Mini Vinnie, Wellbeing Champions, buddies, Sports Leaders, Action team etc

## **Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect is at the heart of our faith: Jesus said, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' We emphasise the need to value the unique contribution of each person in our school. We expect all members of the St Mary's Catholic Primary School community to treat each other with respect, consideration and integrity. Pupils learn through their interactions with staff and each other, in the curriculum and assemblies that their behaviour has an impact on others. They frequently work collaboratively and are encouraged to listen to and value the opinions of others. Pupils are encouraged to understand and reach out to communities who are less fortunate than themselves and each year raise significant amounts for charity, demonstrating their respect for those who live in very different circumstances to ours.

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

Although we are a faith school, we welcome pupils from other faiths or none. As we grow, our intake is becoming more ethnically and religiously diverse which is adding to the richness of our community. Tolerance is emphasised through our RE and PSHE curricula and our assemblies and worship programme.

Pupils benefit from the opportunity of hearing about different communities and faith traditions in the UK and the world, and we encourage parents and others to share their culture and customs with the children. We encourage pupils to understand their place within a culturally diverse society and above all to ensure that they leave St Mary's Catholic Primary School with a set of values which will ensure they will contribute positively to society in the future.

British Value	Statement	Evidence	Impact
<b>Mutual Respect and the Tolerance of those with different Faiths and Beliefs</b>	We pride ourselves on being a happy, Catholic School, where everyone cares and everyone tries their best. Respect is a fundamental school value which is taught and encouraged on a day to day basis. We are a school guided by the Gospel Values of love, faith and friendship. Through RE lessons and Collective Worship, children are taught to understand and respect different faiths and beliefs.	Records of RE lessons and Collective Worship RE curriculum, planning and workbooks.	Throughout school there is a mutual respect between staff and pupils. Children's behaviour reflects their understanding of this fundamental value. The many visitors to St. Mary's school often comment about the calm and caring atmosphere and ethos of our school. Children have knowledge of different faiths and religions and respect their beliefs.
<b>Democracy</b>	Democracy is an important value at St Mary's. The views and opinions of all our pupils are valued highly. Children are taught and shown that democracy is an integral part of successful team work. Our school council is an opportunity for the elected children to voice the opinion of their peers and make a difference.	The establishment of a new School Council every year. The voting for a head boy and head girl every year.	Children are able to work successfully in pairs, groups and as a whole class. They are able to respect the views of others. Children are able to work well as a team in a classroom environment and out of school in extracurricular activities and sport.
<b>Rule of Law</b>	The children are taught the difference between right and wrong throughout their school life. Through RE lessons they are taught different values. As a school we promote a positive approach to behaviour management and encourage everyone to make the right choices. The children are familiar local law enforcement through visits from our Community Support Officers and Fire Service.	Class and School Rules. Collective Worship in class and as a whole school. School Council Meetings. RE planning and workbooks.	Children are able to articulate how and why we need to behave in school. Children are aware of the need for laws and their responsibility to abide by these laws.
<b>Individual Liberty</b>	As a school we aim to encourage the gifts and talents of every child and ensure that every child reaches their full potential. Children are strongly encouraged to be independent in their learning from an early age. Through Collective Worship and RE children are encouraged to develop self-respect and self-confidence. We guide children to make the best choices and extend this to show consideration for their family, friends and the rest of the school community.	Collective Worship RE planning and workbooks.	Children are able to show independence in their learning and are capable of making the right choices. Children are aware of their right to have their own thoughts and opinions. All children know they have a right to be heard in school.