

Newchurch St Mary's CE Primary Academy



Learning Through Faith

*“At St Mary’s we believe that ordinary people
can choose to be extraordinary”*

OUR COMMITMENT TO BRITISH VALUES

St Mary's CE Primary School is committed to promoting the fundamental British values of:

- respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process;
- respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England;
- support for the equality of opportunity for all;
- support and respect for the liberties of all within the law; and
- respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religions, and other beliefs.

Democracy

- Each pupil takes part in a number of elections, including for our School Council, Eco-Council and Team Captains. School Council elections are carried out in the same manner as parliamentary elections, i.e. through election campaigns, speeches, manifestos and secret ballot.
- Debates and discussions take place in classes throughout school, where all points of view are heard and considered.
- Formal debating takes place through the topic plans in Key Stage Two. Pupils have opportunity to debate and vote on issues covered in their class topics. Pupils take on such roles as chairperson, time-keeper, minute-taker, etc. and well as debating a voting.
- Throughout school and across various areas the curriculum, pupils are encouraged to articulate and justify their own points of view, and to consider those of others, including their classmates, figures in the public eye, figures from history and characters in stories.
- Our school's Behaviour Policy is reviewed by staff and pupils together. The pupils are actively involved in reviewing the rewards and sanctions.
- Significant political events, such as the General Election, are incorporated into the curriculum and school assemblies so that pupils have a good understanding of how our country's political system works.
- Significant political events, which have affected our country's political constitution, are studied in class and discussed in assembly, e.g. the anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta.
- Our pupils are taught about figures from history who have brought about changes to the law and injustice peacefully. They consider examples from our own and from other countries.

The Rule of Law

- Our school has a Charter, which was devised with the pupils and is regularly revisited and reviewed. The Charter underpins our expectations of the way everyone should behave in our school. We aim for all adults and pupils to know, understand and abide by the School Charter.
- At the beginning of each school year, every class from Year One to Year Six considers what the School Charter means to them and devises a set of 'Class Rules'.

St Mary's CE Primary School Charter

We promise to:

1. Welcome everyone.
 2. Try to do our best in everything we do and allow others to do the same.
 3. Be kind to everyone and treat other people how we would like to be treated.
 4. Look after our school, our belongings and those of others.
 5. Have fun learning together!
- Our Behaviour Policy outlines the rewards that pupils receive for abiding by the School Charter. Team Points are awarded and celebrated in assembly every Friday afternoon. We celebrate the achievements of children who abide by the Charter through our team points system, but also through a weekly Golden Time session which is afforded to every pupil who has behaved appropriately throughout the week. It is rare for a pupil to miss Golden Time in our school.
 - Our Behaviour Policy also clearly outlines the sanctions that will be applied if behaviour falls below the expectations set out in the Charter. All pupils know and understand the sanctions and they are displayed in each classroom.
 - The rewards and sanctions are applied fairly and consistently by all adults in our school, so that the children feel safe.
 - Our pupils receive visits from the local police and fire service as part of the topics that they are studying in class. This starts in Reception Class. The officers who visit our school reinforce the notion of 'right and wrong' in the eyes of the British Law. Through these visits we hope to foster a healthy relationship with police and other emergency services.
 - Our pupils are taught about the development of the 'Rule of Law' in our country through their history lessons. They are taught about the impact this has had on our own country and the influence it has across the world.

Individual Liberty

- Pupils are helped to develop their self-confidence, self-awareness and esteem through specific lessons as well as through the general ethos of the school. All of the adults in school believe that each pupil is unique, valued and special.
- The School Charter is used to help pupils take responsibility for their own behaviour and much is made of 'making the right choices'. The Charter also supports our pupils to understand their rights in school.
- We have a strong 'anti-bullying' culture in our school and pupils report that they feel safe. Our pupils report that they know what to do if any bullying occurs and that they feel confident the staff would deal with it quickly and effectively.
- Freedom of speech is modelled by encouraging pupils to participate in class discussions regularly, across many areas of the curriculum. Our pupils are taught to challenge each other's opinions peacefully through respectful disagreement. Pupils are encouraged to examine evidence and spend time thinking and reflecting before expressing opinions. They are also given opportunities to change their opinion, and taught that this is part of learning.
- Our pupils are encouraged to be the best that they can be. Images and stories of people, past and present, are used to demonstrate to pupils what this means and looks like.
- In assemblies, a number of songs are used which focus on each individual's ability to reach their aspirations.

Respect and Tolerance

- Our school's Mission Statement and Charter reflect our commitment to equality for all. The first statement on the Charter is: *Welcome everyone*. This notion is regularly discussed in class and in assemblies. Visitors to our school overwhelmingly comment on how friendly and welcoming the staff and pupils are.
- The adults in school model how to respect the opinions of others through their relationships with each other and with the pupils.
- Through their RE lessons, our pupils learn about other faiths. They make visits to places of worship and receive visitors in school. We believe that providing the pupils with an understanding of different faiths underpins the pupils' respect for them.
- Positive images of people from various faiths, cultures, disabilities and backgrounds are used throughout our curriculum.
- Pupils are taught about love and family, and learn that families are made up in different ways, including same-sex couples.
- We hold the local authority's Race Equality Award, recognising the work our school does through its ethos and curriculum.
- Sadly, no school can guarantee that there will never be instances which are contrary to this value. At St Mary's CE Primary School, such instances are extremely rare and they are treated seriously. We challenge any member of our school community who does not show respect for and tolerance of others.

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