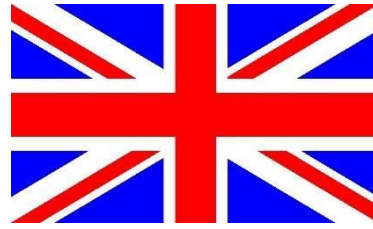


British Values



What does 'British values' mean?

According to Ofsted, 'Fundamental British values' comprise:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith.

There are many ways we promote British Values and being part of Britain.

Democracy

Within our Life Skills (PSHE) lessons, children learn about democracy in our country and in our county. Classes visit Blackburn with Darwen Town Hall to take part in the Junior Citizenship Project and get to meet the current Mayor or Deputy Mayor. Our Year 6 classes go to London in the summer term and visit the Houses of Parliament, where they get to watch the MP's in action and then take part in a workshop all about how the House of Commons and the House of Lords works.

At St Silas, Pupil Voice is an essential part of our vision. Children have many opportunities to make decisions and have their say. We have several pupil groups, such as Creative Worship Team, Sports Leaders, Eco-warriors and Ethos Group. Our Value Ambassadors collect the views of children in their value family and share them at meetings. Value Ambassadors are Year 6 children who have been voted in by their family team. Children are also involved in the recruitment of new staff.

The Rule of Law

Our school rules - kind words, kind hands, kind feet - are constantly being reinforced by the way adults and children interact with each other. The importance of rules and laws are referred to in whole school assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices made by children. We teach children the reasons behind the rules and laws and what happens if they are broken.

Visitors into school, such as the Fire Brigade and the police, talk about how to follow rules to stay safe. Sports coaches help us to follow the rules of the game we are playing.

Individual Liberty

Children learn that in Britain, as long as we do not break the law, we can live as we choose to and have our own opinion about things. At St Silas, we provide boundaries for children to make choices within a safe environment. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are given opportunities to resolve conflicts effectively.

Each year, for Remembrance Day, we hold a special assembly to mark the occasion, led by the children. We wear our poppies with pride as we remember those who lost their lives fighting in war.

During the year, the older children take part in lessons on public speaking and debating. Children are encouraged to research the topics/personalities being debated about so they are well informed and can speak from the heart. A few lucky children will be chosen to represent the school in a public speaking competition.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

As a school, we celebrate our rich cultural and religious diversity and promote mutual respect. We help children to understand how their actions and words affect others. All children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities are valued for their individuality and supported to achieve their best. Children are taught that life is not the same for everyone and we support charities such as Red Nose Day and Children in Need.

Last October, a group of children and teachers slept over in St Silas Church in order to raise money and awareness for Nightsafe, a local charity. This was part of a wider project involving BBC Children in Need and DIY SOS and was supported by the whole community, including the mosque next door.

Being part of Britain

At Silas, we celebrate British traditions and customs during the course of the year. For example, Remembrance during the autumn term and a trip to a pantomime around Christmas time! Our school choir, in 2019, sang in a Remembrance Concert at King George's Hall. They have also taken part in a carol concert for Help the Aged. Our KS1 children take part in a nativity each December, performing in front of the whole school and their parents.

Each summer, the playground is filled full of traditional stalls where children and their parents or carers can take part in a lucky dip or throw a sponge at a teacher. Our curriculum has been created to reflect our British Values. In History, for example, Year 6 classes learn about the monarchy. Year 3 examine democracy in their Ancient Greek topic. Both key stages learn about the location of key places within our country in Geography lessons.