

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 PSHE lessons, children learn about democracy in our country and in our county. 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. Year 6 children also take part in Parliament Week. This builds on the work done in History in Year 5 on democracy in Ancient Greece.

Children have many opportunities across the school year to see democracy in action. They vote for value ambassadors at the start of the school year. Each half term they vote for the half termly S.A.M. star. Our Smart School Council ensures that every child from Year 1- Year 6 is involved in the decision making.

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.

In St Silas we learn about different faiths in R.E. and we know that the freedom to have a faith is protected by the law. In November 2021 we worked with other schools in the local area in Interfaith Week to develop our understanding and respect for other faiths.

Each year, for Remembrance Day, we hold a special assembly to mark the occasion, led by children in Year 6. We wear our poppies with pride as we remember those who lost their lives fighting in war.

We hold discussions and debates about different topics and we know that people can have different opinions and beliefs and that these different opinions and beliefs are protected by law. For example, in Year 5 children debate deforestation as part of their geography topic. A few lucky children will be chosen to represent the school in a public speaking competition.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Our value Belonging is all about respecting everyone and making sure everyone feels like they belong in St Silas. 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.

We learn about mutual tolerance and respect in our PSHE lessons. For example, we learn about stereotyping in Year 5.

In October 2021, we learned about tolerance and respect in our team building games on our activity days (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6).

Children are taught that life is not the same for everyone and each class has a class charity. In October 2019, 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. We also learn about refugees in Refugee Awareness Week.

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.

Our curriculum has been created to reflect our British Values. Both key stages learn about the location of key places within our country in Geography lessons.

Through our Kagan structures we learn to work together and to respect other people's opinions.

Through Children's University we mix with children from other schools which helps us to develop mutual respect and tolerance. We also experience a wide range of activities that helps us to broaden our experiences and develop empathy for others.