

British Values Policy



Policy was reviewed: April 2021
Signed Governors: J. Anderson
Signed Headteacher: M. Battersby
Next Review Date: Sept 2023

Loving God and each other
We work together to be the best we can be

OVERVIEW

St Silas Primary School is committed to actively promoting the Core British Values and serving its community. We recognise that this includes challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to these core values. We recognise the multicultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom and understand the vital role we have in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

We follow equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. St Silas Primary School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal curriculum and ensuring that we promote and reinforce British Values to all pupils. One of our school values, Belonging, reinforces this by teaching pupils that we all belong to the community of St Silas and wider British and global communities.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five British Values are:

Democracy

The rule of law

Individual liberty

Mutual respect

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

We support the values of democracy, rules of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs and these are embedded within our curriculum. These values are found in our own school values - love, thankfulness, belonging and service.

OBJECTIVES

At St Silas Primary School we will:

1. Ensure that fundamental British values are embedded as an integral part of the ethos and culture of St Silas Primary School
2. Challenge opinions or behaviours in school by students, staff, visitors, volunteers or parents that are contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views
3. Ensure that all visitors to St Silas Primary School are screened to ensure that they do not attempt to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values including extremism or radicalisation

4. Teach our pupils about the democracy and the rule of English civil and criminal law and will not teach anything that undermines it
5. Demonstrate how democracy works and by developing an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making by actively promoting democratic processes such as electing a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils
6. Reinforce fundamental British values through the PSHE curriculum and class/whole school assemblies.
7. Deliver a balanced programme of assemblies which promote students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, providing clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong
8. Ensure that our pupils are taught a balanced RE curriculum, that is broadly Christian but, which also takes account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Britain
9. Ensure that we develop a tolerance and understanding of different faiths, cultures and beliefs by visiting places of worship, inviting visiting speakers to the school and using teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths
10. Enable our pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to our local community and life in modern Britain
11. Ensure that there are effective risk assessments and screening policies and procedures in place to safeguard and promote students' welfare against the threat of extremism and radicalisation.

STRATEGIES

At St Silas, we plan assemblies, in school and at church, and lessons to teach the children about our values, respecting similarities and differences, tackling stereotypes and understanding why some people discriminate. We have specifically designed our curriculum so that British Values is interwoven throughout. We aim to empower children to have a voice and to stand up against discrimination, valuing equality, tolerance and mutual respect. We teach them the difference between right and wrong and to respect the law of England.

The topics and lessons in the school's curriculum are designed carefully and planned by teachers to provide a rich learning experience that will have a positive impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development whilst developing pupils self-knowledge, self-esteem and self confidence. Pupils are encouraged to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely.

Whilst focusing on all children developing good skills in English and Maths and all subjects, we ensure they experience extra-curricular clubs such as music, a variety of sports, the arts and outdoor learning. Visits are planned linking with the class topic to provide children with further understanding of the world they live in. We also link with other schools, including schools different to ourselves, to take part in singing and sporting events. Competitions provide the opportunity for children to meet other children from different schools whilst experiencing the process of decision making and understanding rules and fairness.

As well as promoting British values we actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views and principles

OUTCOMES

1. Pupils understand that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety and that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law
2. All pupils within the school, regardless of age, have a voice that is listened to
3. Pupils understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
4. Pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to our local community and life in modern Britain
5. Pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in the community of the school. E.g. supporting younger children in lessons and delivering extra-curricular activities
6. Ensure an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination, extremism and radicalisation