

# British Values

## Promoting British Values at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

The Department for Education states that there is a need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014.

At St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, these values are reinforced in the following ways:

As a Catholic school we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils' character and moral perspective, through the teachings of the Church. We are confident that our continued focus on the Gospel Values will give our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today, and embed in them the building blocks of a future successful and productive life. We believe through the teaching of our school curriculum, we promote tolerance, acceptance, peace, being non-judgemental, humility, justice, the dignity of each human being, forgiveness, generosity, fairness, discipline and hope.

British Values are embedded throughout daily life at St. Bernadette's as well as being taught throughout our curriculum. P.S.H.E. , R.E. and R.H.E. lessons reflect the four fundamental British Values and as a school, we also use the Linking Network scheme of work which teaches the British Values discretely from EYFS to Year Six. Assemblies, Prayer and Liturgy, our behaviour policy, our work within the local parish and our involvement in charitable causes all bolster the children's understanding of what it means to be a compassionate, fair and principled member of modern society in Britain today.

### **Democracy**

Democracy is embedded at our school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their own opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have

the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our Pupil Voice and pupil questionnaires. Elections for the Pupil Voice and the Year 6 Ambassador roles are based on pupil & staff votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action.

## **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Our school rules are deeply embedded in our work every day. As a school, we discuss and display the school rules which are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every pupil is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Details about school rewards and sanctions, choice and consequences are detailed in our Behaviour Policy.

## **Individual Liberty**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school, we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment, an empowering education and a curriculum based upon clear Christian values. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly see in our e-safety and PSHE lessons.

## **Mutual Respect**

Respect is one of our core values and key to our school rules. Our pupils are involved in reviewing classroom /school rules and these are deeply embedded in our Mission Statement and all that we do at our school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. The core value of respect at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom.

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

Our core value of respect ensures tolerance of those who have different faiths and beliefs. Understanding about different faiths is taught through our R.E.

curriculum which enhances our pupils' knowledge and demonstrates the importance of tolerance and respect. Visitors from other faiths are welcomed into school to talk to our pupils about their beliefs and pupils go out on day visits to different places of worship.