

Promoting British Values Policy

We grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus

Approved by	
Name:	Claire Cassley
Position:	Governor
Signed:	<i>C. Cassley</i>
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Proposed review date ² :	February 2022

Statement of intent

This policy sets out the framework in which St. Mary's Catholic Primary School will ensure that we actively promote the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to actively promoting British values to ensure our pupils leave us fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

The government emphasises that all schools should ensure that they teach pupils about British values. We take every opportunity to promote the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Through the promotion of these values, our school aims to ensure pupils:

- Understand the democratic process and how citizens can have a say in decision making.
- Recognise the advantages of living under the rule of law and how law is essential for a safe society.
- Understand that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary and why it exists.
- Understand the reasons for accountability of institutions and why courts maintain independence.
- Know why freedom of religion protects all faiths, as well as those with no faith.
- Accept that people who hold different religious beliefs should be tolerated and not discriminated against.
- Value the importance of identifying and combatting extremism.

Implementation

We promote British values both within and beyond the classroom and these values are at the heart of our ethos. Here are just some of the ways our school seeks to embed the teaching of British values.

1. These values are officially taught through the RE and PSHE curriculum, and are further nurtured through the school's ethos and promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding.

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School these values are reinforced regularly alongside our vision and values to inspire a love of learning.

2. Legal framework

- 2.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Ofsted (2018) 'School inspection handbook'

2.2. This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- **Prevent Policy**
- **Behavioural Policy**
- **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**
- **Equal Opportunities Policy**
- **Disciplinary Policy and Procedure**
- **Prevent Duty Policy**

3. Roles and responsibilities

- 3.1. The governing board is responsible for the overall implementation of this policy and for ensuring that the British values are upheld throughout the school.
- 3.2. The headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.
- 3.3. The headteacher is responsible for disciplining staff who do not uphold British values, in line with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.
- 3.4. Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.
- 3.5. Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's **Behavioural Policy**.

4. Democracy

- 4.1. Pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard, including through:
 - Pupil questionnaires
 - The school council
 - Leadership opportunities such as showing parents around the school
 - Ensuring that all children agree the class rules of behaviour and learning for the academic year ahead.
- 4.2. Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

5. The rule of law

- 5.1. The school has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect the school, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. All pupils are involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding.
- 5.2. Pupils are taught these values and the reasons behind laws, whether they govern the class, the school or the country, that are essential for their wellbeing and safety. Pupils are allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.
- 5.3. The school organises visits from authorities throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.

- 5.4. The school understands the importance of promoting British values through a comprehensive and unprejudiced curriculum.

6. Individual liberty

- 6.1. A safe and supportive environment is fostered throughout the school, where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.
- 6.2. Pupils are taught about their rights and personal freedoms, and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through teaching on e-safety and PSHE lessons.

7. Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

- 7.1. Respect forms a core pillar of the school's ethos. Pupils are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and all members of staff with respect.
- 7.2. This is reinforced through the school's **Behavioural Policy** and posters throughout the school promoting mutual respect.
- 7.3. The school acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally-diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity.
- 7.4. Throughout the year, assemblies are held focussing on bullying, with reference to prejudice-based bullying, and discussion is encouraged.
- 7.5. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum.
- 7.6. The school encourages its pupils from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge with their peers to enhance their learning.

8. Challenging views that go against British values

- 8.1. The school openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and pupils that goes against British values.
- 8.2. The school adopts a zero-tolerance approach towards discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour. Any pupils displaying this behaviour will be disciplined in line with the Behavioural Policy.
- 8.3. Referrals regarding pupils that may be at risk of radicalisation will be made in accordance with the school's Prevent Duty Policy.

9. Staff training

- 9.1. Members of staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction and through additional training.
- 9.2. Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the values in this policy.

Impact

- 9.3. Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our pupils have:
 - An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.

- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence.
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- An acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

10. Policy review

- 10.1. This policy is reviewed annually by the headteacher, British Values Coordinator and the governing board.
- 10.2. The next scheduled review date for this policy is February 2021.