What are 'fundamental British values'?

Schools are required to provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. As part of this requirement, we are expected to actively promote fundamental British values.

The government defines these as:

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

What does this mean for my child?

Our efforts to promote fundamental British values are designed to prepare children for life in modern Britain.

Ultimately, we aim to help pupils understand:

- The importance of combatting discrimination
- How we can influence decision-making by taking part in democratic processes like voting and petitioning
- Our freedom under British law to choose different faiths and beliefs
- That the law is there to keep us safe

What does this look like in school?

The values are reflected throughout our school, including in our ethos, policies and assemblies.

Children also engage with the values through the curriculum, in ways that are suitable for their age and context. For example, in some subjects there are opportunities to think about traditions from different cultures and religions.

Extra-curricular activities such as games teach children about the importance of rules. Pupil votes, questionnaires and councils are other ways that children can have their voices heard and learn about democracy.

Our duty to actively promote fundamental British values means that we always present political views to children in a balanced way. We are also responsible for challenging prejudiced or extreme opinions and behaviour.

As part of this responsibility, we have put measures in place to protect children from exposure to extremist views. Please feel free to contact the school if you would like more information about this.

FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

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

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child still be able to express his/her faith at school?

Absolutely. One of the fundamental values is respect and tolerance of people with different faiths, and we teach our children that British law protects their freedom to hold their own beliefs.

Any prejudice or discrimination towards pupils on the basis of their faith goes against the fundamental British values and will not be tolerated by the school.

How will this affect my child's lessons?

The curriculum provides lots of opportunities to look at fundamental British values. Your child will already have some experience of this in lessons such as religious education (RE) and personal, social and health education (PSHE).

In each subject, our teachers will look out for these opportunities and encourage children to think about how the values link into the topics they are studying.

Will there be major changes to the school's ethos?

Our school's ethos already includes many aspects of the government's fundamental British values. For example, we expect our children to follow the school rules and show kindness to one another. Promoting fundamental British values will reinforce, not change, our current ethos.

St. Mary's C.P. School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society.

In **St. Mary's C.P. School** we promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of all our pupils. Our curriculum promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faith and beliefs.

Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

Through assemblies, themed days and the wider curriculum we prepare them for potential risk. As with other online risks of harm, teachers need to be aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups and ensure children are aware and safe from this, when accessing the internet in school.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced; it promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

Our PSCHE provision is embedded across the curriculum and underpins the ethos of our school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

Our school is committed to prevention and strategies and procedures that protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views. If we identify a pupil who is or may be at risk, advice will be sought from Cumbria Safeguarding Hub and if necessary Cumbria Police/Prevent Officer.

Cumbria Safeguarding Hub:

0333 240 1727

The Safeguarding Team at St. Mary's C.P. School

Mrs S Starkie
Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs C Davidson
Deputy Headteacher
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Miss Nicola Pettitt
Chair of Governors
Mrs Margaret Woosnam
Governor for Safeguarding and Child Protection

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Prevent Leaflet

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Fundamental British Values