

Promoting British Values Policy



2018

Policy Review Date – January 2019

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body on an annual basis.

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Rationale

The DfE have recently reinforced the 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 have been reiterated this year in Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in Schools, DfE November 2014.

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

- Inspirational teaching that enables all our children to flourish as confident and independent learners
- A vibrant curriculum that fires each child’s imagination to explore and fulfil their own potential
- A loving, Christian school family that values every child and takes pride in their achievements.

At St Mary’s Catholic Primary School we are committed to actively promoting British values and this forms part of our wider work in school with children in relation to their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC). At the heart of these values, lie good relationships in which teachers and students work together towards common goals. Much work was already in place to support and embed these values and it is our aim to ensure we effectively share this with pupils, staff, governors and the wider community. These values are integral to our school vision and ethos and are reinforced regularly in a variety of ways.

We actively promote British Values through:-

We actively teach and promote Fundamental British values in the following ways:

Democracy: Democracy is richly embedded within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through a variety of opportunities including pupil questionnaires and leadership opportunities such as showing parents around our school. All children agree to a class rules of behaviour and learning for the academic year in line with school expectations and rules.

St Mary’s has class councillors with two representatives from each class from Reception upwards. They are voted for through a democratic process at the beginning of each year by their class mates. The School Councillors meet regularly with a member of staff to discuss issues raised by their peers and to plan ways in which to develop the school as a whole including its curriculum.

We also have a range of monitors such as Eco warriors and door monitors. The children have to apply for these roles and are voted for by staff and school councillors based on their application letters.

Each class votes on a selection of charities throughout the year, to select charities whom the school is able to support through events such as 'CAFOD', 'Operation Christmas child' and 'Water Aid' involving external members of our local and national communities. Other pupils also come forwards asking to raise the profile of specific charities, something we embrace. Each year the school choir and Year 2 go carol singing the funds that are raised goes towards a charity that is voted by the children.

Each year we take part in 'Rising Stars' through the competition we hold events such as cake stalls. The committee is then able to vote on the use of the funds they raise for the development of our school.

We also talk to children about their learning and ask them about what they enjoy about their learning, how we can improve their learning experiences and ask them what helps them learn.

The Councillors and Clubs are genuinely able to effect change within the school and also within the wider world using their own budget. Examples of this are the purchase of playground resources and developments for the school such as the IT Suite and toilet refurbishments.

The Rule of Law: The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at St Mary's. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws. They learn that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when rules and laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message. The Year 6 class also visit the local court and take part in role play to find out what happens in a court room.

Pupils' pride in the school is shown by their excellent conduct, manners and punctuality. This is evidenced by lesson and general observations in and out of school as well as discussions with pupils, feedback from feeder schools and places we visit. This has been achieved through the embedding of our school values, supportive parents, governors and high expectations of behaviour and learning from ALL staff. Our pupils can all articulate our school values and their learning targets, which are prominently displayed around the school and can talk about how the values relate to their behaviour and relationships within school.

At St Mary's Catholic Primary 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 young pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. The pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

is well developed. We encourage our pupils to achieve their very best and to broaden their education to enable them to make informed decisions later in life as broad-minded and knowledgeable citizens. Pupils can reflect on their experiences in school, demonstrating imaginative and creative approaches and their curiosity for learning. They have a well - developed understanding of right and wrong through the use of positive role models in school and they understand right and wrong choices. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our eSafety and PSHE lessons. We encourage children to take an increasing responsibility in aspects of school life as they grow older provided through our Home school Agreement e.g. Homework, their belongings, Leadership Opportunities, Productions, Collective Worship and e-safety. We aim to have a strong Anti-Bullying culture at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Any issues are dealt with swiftly. Whether it is through a choice of challenge, how they record their work or of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices and take on responsibilities throughout their time at the school. Pupils are taught at an age appropriate stage about health, medicines, drugs, relationships and puberty. The school has a SRE policy in place.

Mutual Respect: As a Catholic school, our ethos is based around core Christian values including Mutual respect which is at the heart of our values. Through our carefully chosen assembly themes and PHSE lessons children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect. The residents of Bethel House are invited to school to watch the nativity plays and the children then visit the care home. Our pupils formally invited them into the school, made cakes and sandwiches, and spent time talking with them, an aspect very important in ensuring our pupils have good relationships and respect throughout different generations and can learn about a time different to their own. We have a raft of policies including SEND, behaviour and Equality, agreed by all stakeholders which reinforces our commitment to valuing individuality and inclusion of all.

Knowledge of Different Faiths and Beliefs: We actively promote diversity through our learning about different faiths, beliefs and cultures and what it means to be British in a culturally diverse society. Prayer and Liturgy, Religious Education, History and Geography and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are now being invited into school, to share their knowledge and to enhance learning for all age groups and our pupils are visiting places of worship that are important to different faiths. Each class has a different faith visit planned into the year this includes Buddhism, Judaism, Pentecostal Church, the Salvation Army and the Church of England. A hugely powerful aspect of the school in that it provides staff, pupils, parents and Governors with the support and empowerment through prayer.

Being part of Britain: We value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, we celebrate traditions throughout the year. For example, Harvest festival, the Christmas Nativity and Easter, Diwali. We also celebrate national and international events such as the Queen's jubilee and the London Olympics. Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Geographically, they learn about their local environment and compare it with different places all around Great Britain, celebrating the diversity of people, customs and landscape.

Historically, the children learn about British history. This spans across many centuries and includes; the Viking settlers, the Tudors, The Great Fire of London, World War 2 and many famous British people, saints and inventors. For more examples and relevant policies, please see our school website.

Aims and Objectives

At St. Mary's we aim to:-

- Actively 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.
- Encourage pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.
- Ensure that principles are actively promoted which: Ø Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- Encourage pupils 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.
- Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England.
- Promote further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures.
- Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England
 - Prevent the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school and take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

This should be:

While they are in attendance at the school.

While they are taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised by or on behalf of the school.

In the promotion at the school, including through the distribution of promotional material, of extra-curricular activities taking place at the school or elsewhere.

- Protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including but not restricted to those linked to Islam ideology, Far Right/Neo Nazi/White Supremacist ideology etc.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governors and staff at St Mary's Catholic Primary School will:

- Ensure that fundamental British values are embedded as an integral part of the ethos and culture of St Mary's Catholic Primary School.
- Challenge opinions or behaviours in school by students, staff, visitors, volunteers or parents that are contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views.
- Ensure that all visitors to St Mary's Catholic Primary School are screened to ensure that they do not attempt to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values including extremism or radicalisation.
- Ensure that our students 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.
- Teach our students about the democracy and the rule of English civil and criminal law and will not teach anything that undermines it.
- Ensure all students within the school, regardless of age, have a voice that is listened to.
- 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 students • Reinforce fundamental British values through the SMSC programme, PSHE curriculum, Citizenship curriculum and the assembly programme.
- Ensure that our students 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.
- Ensure that our students understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- 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.
- Enable our students 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.
- Enable our students to 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.

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- 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.
- Ensure an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination, extremism and radicalisation.
- 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.