

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Promoting Fundamental British Values St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Introduction:

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.

It is in the context of our vision and values that this statement should be read. We actively teach and promote Fundamental British values in the following ways:

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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.