



PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

The DfE have 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.”

At St Mary's, we think it very important that our pupils develop a strong set of values and principles, and that they question and understand what it means to grow up in British society. Through a rich and challenging curriculum, and through a focus on key events in British History - we invite pupils to reflect upon their role in a diverse, multicultural and multi faith society.

DEMOCRACY

Democracy underpins the values of the school. All children are treated fairly and have an equal right to express their views and be listened to. We inculcate a deeply embedded appreciation of the values of fairness and democracy through our curriculum as well as through our school council, in which children seeking to be elected as class representatives participate in voting processes. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and pupil questionnaires.

RULE OF LAW

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced regularly, as well as specifically when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Our Curriculum casts a light on global citizenship and the rule of law, including the role of democratic advocacy for change. Pupils are taught the reasons behind school rules, taught the importance of observing those rules and what the consequences will be should they forget to follow any of the rules. Visits from authorities such as the Police reinforce the message that we all have a responsibility to follow laws and that there are consequences when laws are broken.

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 young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety Policy and PSHE. Children have key roles and responsibilities in school, such as Sports leaders, Buddies and other roles of responsibility. Through our curricular clubs and opportunities, children are given the freedom to make choices. The aims and ethos statement are embodied in all that we do.

MUTUAL RESPECT



Our children thoroughly enjoy lessons and are active learners who display very good behaviour because they understand the right of all children to learn and thrive in an atmosphere of mutual respect. The school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom rules as well as our Behaviour Policy. Through a focus on multiculturalism and identity, we equip pupils with a mature, respectful and sensitive appreciation for difference and diversity e.g. gender, race, religion, sexual orientation. In discussing what it means to be British, children engage critically with stereotypes and prejudices and develop an understanding of how we can celebrate our heritage and home cultures whilst also embracing the ties that bind us together.

TOLERANCE OF THOSE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS

Our Christian school is enriched by the faith of our school community, and we teach an inclusive and all embracing Religious Education curriculum that teaches pupils about the beliefs and practices of all major religious groups, and indeed the shared values that religion can promote in synchrony with core British values. All staff are committed to developing with the children the language needed to express their views, emotions and feelings so that children are able to negotiate with their peers and resolve any disagreements peacefully. We actively seek opportunities to enhance pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity through the real life experiences of their peers. Assemblies, discussions and themed diversity weeks involving prejudices and prejudiced based bullying are held and are supported by learning in RE and PSHE.

As a school that serves a diverse community, we take our responsibility to promote community cohesion, generate a respect for difference and individual rights seriously. Our challenging curriculum enables pupils to recognise the valuable role that they play as emerging citizens in British society.

As a church school, Christian values underpin the life of our school, and the overlap between these and British Values is clear, especially as one could argue that the values of our country have emerged from its long history as a Christian nation.

	
<p>Democracy The Rule of Law Individual Liberty</p>	<p>Justice Trust Responsibility</p>
<p>Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs</p>	<p>Peace, Agape, Koinonia, Humility, Forgiveness, Hope, Respect, Friendship, Compassion, Wisdom</p>