



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

St Mary's Catholic Primary school actively seeks to promote and uphold British values through its ethos, curriculum, liturgy and assemblies, aiming to educate and engage with pupils about equality, human rights and inclusion in a positive and pro-active way.

The Government set out its definition of British Values in the Prevent Strategy 2011 as part of its overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The introduction of Part 5 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 gives the Prevent strategy legal status in schools and colleges in England and Wales. In guidance for maintained schools, issued by the Department for Education in November 2014, '*Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools*', a list was provided that describes the understanding and knowledge expected of pupils as a result of schools promoting fundamental British values.

These were:

- 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 choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that other 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; and
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

At St Mary's, these values are promoted in the following ways:

Democracy

- ✓ Having a school council and allowing pupils to elect their school councillors by holding elections
- ✓ Highlighting the development of democratic ideas in history lessons
- ✓ Ensuring all pupils are listened to by adults
- ✓ Inviting speakers to the school
- ✓ Learning about our political system and those in other parts of the world
- ✓ Annual pupil questionnaires (e.g. in recent years these have included PE, RE, Respect week)

The Rule of Law

- ✓ Classes creating their own "class rules" at the start of the year
- ✓ Having a clear behaviour policy that is explained to all
- ✓ Involving pupils in creating policies (e.g. Children's Anti-bullying Policy written by Year 5 and 6 pupils)
- ✓ Organising visits from the police service to reinforce the message of right and wrong and to teach about online safety
- ✓ Highlighting the rules of the Church in the RE curriculum and in other religions

Individual Liberty

- ✓ Students are encouraged to be independent in their learning (e.g. using Building Learning Power principles, pupils are taught to be independent, reflective, resources and resilient independent learners)
- ✓ Students have the opportunity to learn about and reflect on about future careers (e.g. visitors to the school from a wide range of different careers, enterprise projects e.g. Fiver Challenge)
- ✓ Pupils are given the opportunity to suggest and organise fundraising events (e.g. Wear it Wild Day, obstacle races for Rowcroft Hospice).
- ✓ Class debates and discussions take place in various curriculum subjects
- ✓ Opportunities for pupils to learn about their rights and personal freedoms and how to exercise these safely (e.g. e-Safety lessons and CEOP resources, PSHE lessons) and the responsibilities that these bring
- ✓ Opportunities to join a number of extra-curricular activities at lunchtimes or after school
- ✓ Opportunities to take on additional roles and responsibilities (e.g. school prefects, librarians, buddies, peer mediators)

Mutual respect

- ✓ Having a mission statement that is inclusive and which was written by the school community and is regularly discussed with the children and on display
- ✓ Constantly promoting respect for others as good manners (e.g. encouraged and commented on by visitors to Open Days, those who sign our visitors' book, comments from community events attended by our pupils such as our choir visiting nursing homes and performing at charity concerts)
- ✓ Reinforcing the value of everyone's opinions in class debates
- ✓ Having an effective anti-bullying policy
- ✓ Emphasising in RE and PSHE lessons that every person is unique and "created in the image of God"
- ✓ Having active educational links with other schools (e.g. French school in Fontaine-Henry and Ugandan school as part of our gardening project)
- ✓ Supporting charitable works (e.g. fundraising events held each term for charities such as Macmillan Cancer Support, Samaritan's Purse, Buckfastleigh Food Bank, CAFOD, Save the Children, World Wildlife Fund, Children in Need, Sports Relief)
- ✓ Participation in Global Development Partnership Programme and joining with other schools for events such as Refugee Day.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- ✓ Religious Education provides pupils with a deep understanding of their own faith as well as an awareness of other faiths
- ✓ Themed weeks (e.g. 'Respect Week') exploring other cultures and faiths
- ✓ Visitors from other faiths invited into the school
- ✓ Opportunities to explore cultural celebrations through art and music
- ✓ Assemblies each term focussing on other faiths and beliefs