



St Teresa's RC Primary School

British Values Policy

Our Mission Statement

At St Teresa's Roman Catholic Primary School;
We grow together with Jesus, as we live our lives according to Gospel values.
We grow together as a community in respect, friendship and responsibility.
We grow together in understanding as we encourage each child
to achieve their true potential.
We grow together in God's love.



'I am the vine, you are the branches' (John 15:5)

At St Teresa's Primary School, our Mission Statement has Jesus at the heart of everything we do. We live out our faith and show we care for one another by sharing our love of Jesus with everyone. As set out in our Mission Statement and evidenced in the community we are, we seek to develop the whole person.

As a Catholic school, we encourage our children to be unique, creative, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British Society and to the world.

The Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 'Prevent' strategy and in 2014 the Department for Education reinforced the need '*to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values*'. Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to these values, which are:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Many of these values are embedded within our Catholic Ethos and Mission, but in addition St Teresa's uses strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure pupils' understanding of the wider implications of British values.

At St Teresa's these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy - we actively promote and model democracy by:

- Providing our children with a broad knowledge of and promoting respect for public institutions and services e.g. MP visits into school, visits by the Police, Fire Service,
- Teaching children how they can influence decision making through the democratic process e.g. School council and School Chaplains
- Modelling how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged e.g. by teaching about inspirational figures such as Ghandi, Mandela, Mother Teresa, Oscar Romero, Martin Luther King and Maximillian Kolbe.
- Facilitating enquiries around "The Big Questions" and personal opinions

Rule of Law - we actively promote and model the rule of law by:

- Ensuring school rules are clear and fair e.g. through our consistent behaviour policy.
- Helping children to distinguish right from wrong e.g. by using the example of Christ when dealing with behaviour that is not acceptable.
- Promoting respect for the law and the basis on which it is made e.g. through visitors such as PCSOs, Police, MP into school.
- Helping children to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals e.g. through our RE curriculum, through focus weeks (e-safety and anti-bullying weeks etc.) and invited visitors.
- Having a behaviour policy that is linked to restorative justice e.g. that is based on the Christian value of forgiveness.
- Supporting children in their exploration of opinions through exploring the “Big Questions” of life.

Individual Liberty - we actively promote and model individual liberty by:

- Supporting pupils to develop their self- knowledge, self- esteem and self- confidence e.g. through our Catholic ethos, our way of treating people, by investing heavily in meeting the needs of all of the children, by providing equality of opportunity, by knowing and understanding the needs of all of the children.
- Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour as well as knowing their rights e.g. through linking rights with responsibilities, by having a fair and consistent behaviour management policy.
- Challenging stereotypes e.g. visitors into school, disability awareness, anti - bullying and anti- racism learning.

Respect and Tolerance - we actively promote and model respect and tolerance by:

- Promoting respect for individual differences e.g. through assemblies and Masses, the RE curriculum, through our Catholic ethos.
- Helping children to acquire an understanding of and respect for their own and other cultures and ways of life e.g. through Geography, International Links and Religious Education.
- Openly discussing and celebrating the differences between people such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender and different family situations such as looked after children, young carers.
- Sporting activities promoting an attitude of equality and fairness. We celebrate awards and achievements gained from both school and outside school activities during the weekly award assemblies.
- Inviting visitors to school e.g. paralympians to illustrate to our children different life experiences.

- Celebrating other cultures and faiths during our World Religion Weeks

Alongside all the opportunities above, to ensure British Values are taught across all age groups and through the whole curriculum, teachers will annotate planning using a colour coded system to ensure there is a broad and balanced coverage in lessons.

We believe that when children leave St. Teresa's they will be able to:

- Understand their responsibilities as citizens of a democratic society.
- Have an awareness of how they can maintain the underpinning core British values.
- Maintain an awareness and respect for the culturally diverse society in which they live.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Governing body and the head teacher are confident that St Teresa's promotes community cohesion, provides excellent PSHE and equips pupils to be good future citizens. We believe that our response to the Government's expectation that we should teach British Values should be proportionate to need.

1. The SLT will maintain an annual overview of the "across school" activities that contribute to the skills and learning for British Values. The headteacher will use this and the reporting from meetings with class teachers (see below) to make an annual statement to governors on the school's work in relation to British Values.
2. Key Stage leaders will discuss with their class teachers at least annually the curriculum opportunities that they have used and will use to develop "British Values" and to propose ideas and plans for the future. The outcomes of these discussions will be recoded and shared with the SLT.
3. Governors will review their statement/policy as necessary in the light of the above feedback.

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