

Equality

British Values

The Department for Education has identified a 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”.

They define British Values as follows:

- Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
- Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Support for equality of opportunity for all
- Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

Our school reflects British values in all that we do. 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. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

Our Policy on British values

Introduction

In all that we do at St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools Trust we seek to fully live up to the mission statement of our entire school community to 'Aspire not to have more but to be more'. This provides a secure foundation for our work to ensure the understanding and practice of British values imbued with our Christian faith.

British values come out of the Christian tradition of Great Britain and are a reflection of the 10 Commandments. Christian values are embedded in our school life. We have an obligation to ensure that our pupils learn about these Christian values and are they practise them through the opportunities and high standards that we offer at St Mary's.

What We Do and Plan to Do

Pupils learn from the foundation stage that all are created equal in the site of God and they are taught by example and through the rest of the curriculum to see that God given dignity in all humankind. This behaviour is modelled by staff and by the pupils. Therefore to show how mutual respect is an expected observable behaviour throughout the school.

Pupils learn that as individuals and as a school community we need rules. Pupils, for example through each class and the school council, help to review and make some of the school rules and to understand that some rules are made for us. They are taught about and learn respect for the law both within lessons e.g. History and PHSCE and through assemblies.

Pupils learn about reconciliation in religious education and this is applied through the school's approach to behaviour management. This helps the pupils' growing sense of the difference between right and wrong.

Pupils are encouraged to show initiative and to participate in identifying needs and responding to ensure the well-being of fellow pupils. This is exemplified in their understanding of the term 'neighbour' in the widest context and through the commandment to 'Love thy neighbour as thyself' and their intolerance of any bullying.

Pupils are provided with rich opportunities to take responsibility and to show care for others. Older pupils act as monitors across a range of areas such as buddying with early years pupils. They undertake a range of community activities at various times in the year, for example visiting and singing at homes for the blind at Christmas time. Pupils nominate and choose charities which they very successfully support. A strong focus on the work of Cafod reinforces learning about justice, fairness and liberty.

The school's celebration and certificate assembly provides further opportunities for pupils to show initiatives, recognise responsibility and to demonstrate the skills and attitudes that will help them prepare to participate and contribute as active and involved members of their communities.

Pupils practise democracy and through elections to the vibrant School Council and for the roles of Team captains and vice captains. More is learned about democracy in history topics particularly about the Second World War,

As pupils get older we place a greater emphasis on following current affairs and the news media, providing opportunities to discuss the news and to grow in discernment. This includes a weekly news quiz/work for older pupils.

PE and sport help to develop a sense of fair play and the participation of all.

Our religious education is firmly Christian and specifically Catholic, helping the pupils grow in their faith. Pupils also learn respect for and about the importance of faith to those of other faiths or none. A high priority is placed on arranging visits to meet with and see the places where others worship.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Governing Body and the Executive Headteacher are confident that our schools promote community cohesion provides excellent PHSCE in and equips pupils to be good to future

citizens we believe that our response to the government's expectation that we should teach British values should be proportionate to me the monitoring below should therefore be light touch.

1. The SLT will maintain an annual overview of the 'across school' activities that contribute to the skills and learning for British Values. The Executive Headteacher will use this and the reporting from meetings with class teachers to make an annual statement to Governors on the school's work in relation to British Values.

2. Key Stage phase leaders will discuss with their class teachers at least annually the curriculum opportunities that they have used to develop 'British Values' and to propose ideas and plans for this in the future. The outcomes of these discussions will be shared with the SLT.

3. Governors will review their statement/policy as necessary in the light of the above feedback.