



## British Values Policy

<b>Date:</b>	October 2019	<b>Review:</b>	October 2023
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### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**We are a family who love, believe and achieve together.**

### SCHOOL CORE VALUES

**Ambition**

**Kindness**

**Teamwork**

**Respect**

### Introduction

Our Mission Statement and core values as a Catholic school allow us to champion British Values in all aspects of school life and beyond.

We fully recognise and embrace the multi-cultural, multi-faith and every-changing nature of the United Kingdom. The work we do in school seeks to prepare our children for the dynamic and diverse society in which they will live and work.

We have clear equality policies which aim to prevent discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status.

We teach our children that everybody is different but everybody is equal.

An understanding of British values is a critical part of this education. The Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 'Prevent' strategy and the Department for Education has 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 British Values, which are:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

## British Values at St Margaret Ward

Many of these values are embedded within our school values, driven by our Catholic faith, but in addition to this, at St Margaret Ward we use strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure pupils' understanding of the wider implications of British values.

The examples that follow show some of the ways in which we seek to embed British values.

### Democracy

Elections are held for head and deputy girl and boy at the start of each academic year. Any pupil from Year 6 is welcome to put themselves forward for the role and they deliver their 'campaign speech' to the whole school. All pupils and teaching staff then vote for their chosen candidate for each of the head roles. Once elected, the leaders will take on various leadership roles and they also present their own award at the weekly Celebration Assembly, recognising the efforts of other pupils who they notice living out our school values.

In addition, within each class, elections are held for a male and female school council representative. Pupils are able to vote to make choices brought to them by these representatives.

Both of these examples of democracy help foster the concept of freedom of speech and group action. Older pupils learn in more detail about the mechanism of government in the UK, helping them to develop an understanding of the vital importance of democracy in securing a fair society where everyone has a voice.

### The Rule of Law

The school has a positive behaviour policy focused on restorative practice. Pupils are taught to recognise the impact of their actions for others. The 'Traffic Light' system of behaviour management in each classroom also helps pupils to self-regulate their behaviour. They understand the rewards and sanctions which are clearly explained and fairly administered.

Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws - that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Assemblies and discussions in class focus on recognising right from wrong and visits from the Police, Fire Service and other local community representatives help to reinforce these messages.

### Individual Liberty

Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices, within a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others through our Religious Education curriculum and PSHE lessons. E-safety teaching enables them to make choices in a safe manner.

Pupil-teacher relationships are built on a foundation of trust. Pupils know that adults take their concerns seriously, that they will listen and, where necessary, take action. Pupils played an important part in the development of our new mission statement and values. They then contributed to the type of behaviours seen in school which live out these values. These are displayed in a large mural in the school hall.

We aim to ensure that pupils know their rights, but also that they are aware of the responsibilities that they entail. Teachers and other staff endeavour to set clear, consistent boundaries so that pupils can make informed choices in a safe, secure and supportive environment.

### Mutual Respect

Respect is one of our four core school values. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honest and open communication with others and fair play. Pupils work collaboratively and value others' opinions. We expect all members of the St Margaret Ward community to treat each other with respect, consideration and integrity. Assemblies constantly promote respect for others and the importance of good manners.

Pupils learn through their interactions with staff and each other, in the curriculum and assemblies that their behaviour has an impact on others. They frequently work collaboratively and are encouraged to listen to and value the opinions of others. Pupils are encouraged to understand and reach out to communities who are less fortunate than themselves and each year raise significant amounts for charity, demonstrating their respect for those who live in very different circumstances to ours. Pupils are encouraged to organise their own fundraising events for charities that they wish to support.

### Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Faith Week, which includes visitors to school of other faiths, as well as assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Pupils benefit from the opportunity of hearing about different communities and faith traditions in the UK and the world, and we encourage parents and others to share their culture and customs with the children. We hold an International Evening each year where parents bring traditional dishes from their culture. In all, we currently have more than 20 ethnic groups represented in school.

We encourage pupils to understand their place within a culturally diverse society and above all to ensure that they leave St Margaret Ward with a set of values which will ensure they will contribute positively to society in the future.