

St. Joseph's RC Primary School, Mossley

Statement on British Values

The UK Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. The DfE has recently reinforced the need 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values.'

The values are:

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

At St. Joseph's RC Primary School we are committed to serving our community and local area. The school recognises the multi cultural, multi ethnic and ever changing nature of UK society. In so doing we reinforce British values regularly to ensure no groups or individuals are subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by others who unduly or illegally influence them. In conjunction with our other policies we will promote British values in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democratic values are an explicit part of the ethos at St. Joseph's. All adults listen to the views of the pupils and value their opinions. Pupils have further opportunity to have their voices heard through our school council and through pupil interviews and/or questionnaires. The election of the school council is the result of pupil votes and this group canvases the opinions of its peers regularly. The school chaplains also provide a voice for the pupils and represent the school's beliefs and ethos.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of laws and rules are consistently set and reinforced in the classroom, as well as through school assemblies and teaching. 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. Pupils follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used. Assemblies and discussions in class focus on recognising right from wrong. Visits involving police, fire brigade and other local services are encouraged to develop this view further.

Individual Liberty:

Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices, within a safe and supportive environment. Developing pupil 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 given regular opportunities to support charities - local, national and global. They are taught consideration for others through our Religious Education curriculum and PSHE lessons. E-safety teaching and discussions about personal safety enable them to make choices in a safe manner.

Mutual Respect:

Our school's Catholic ethos and behaviour policy are based on Gospel values. Our Mission Statement reflects these values further. Assemblies regularly promote respect for others and the importance of good manners. 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.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

As a Catholic worshipping community, pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum and the spiritual life of the school. Assemblies, class work and a whole school emphasis on Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education (SMSC) helps 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.

The school will at all times in its teaching reflect the above values and demonstrate them fully within its own methods of working.