



St Mary's R.C. Primary School

British Values Policy

November 2015

Vision:

We believe that every child is a gift from God, therefore, we aim to provide an outstanding and happy Catholic education which develops the 'whole child' whilst enabling them to reach their full potential.

Mission statement:

We love God ... so we follow the examples of Jesus

We love learning ... so we always do our very best in everything

We love each other ... so we treat each other as we want to be treated

Overview

St. Mary's RC Primary School has an obligation under section 78 of the Education Act (2002) which requires all school, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum to promote the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of students at the school. In June 2014, the Secretary of State for Education announced that schools would be required to actively promote British values from September 2014. The DfE have recently reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectations on all schools to promote the fundamental British Values"

The government originally set out its definition of British Values in their 2011 Prevent Strategy and the Prime Minister has reiterated these this year.

Legal framework

This policy will have consideration for the following guidance:

- Ofsted, School Inspection Handbook, 2015.
- DfE, Improving the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils, 2013.

This policy should be read alongside the following other policies:

- Behaviour Policy
- SMSC Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Single Equality Policy
- RE Policy
- SRE Policy
- Prevent Policy

Roles and responsibilities

St. Mary's RC Primary School understands the importance of promoting British values through a comprehensive and unprejudiced curriculum.

The Headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.

Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.

Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

1. Democracy

At St. Mary's RC Primary School, pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard through pupil questionnaires and the pupil-elected school council.

Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

2. The rule of law

St. Mary's RC Primary School has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Our pupils are involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding.

At St. Mary's RC Primary School pupils are taught these values and the reasons behind laws, whether they govern the class, the school or the country, that are essential for their well-being and safety. Pupils are allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law. All children take part in regular P4C/Mindfulness and Circle Time where we encourage debate and 'Big Questioning'.

St. Mary's RC Primary School organises visits from authorities throughout the academic year in **an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.**

3. Individual liberty

At St. Mary's RC Primary School we foster a safe and supportive environment where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.

Pupils are taught about their rights and personal freedoms and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through our teaching on e-safety and PSHE lessons.

4. Mutual respect

Respect forms a core pillar of St. Mary's ethos. Pupils are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and staff with respect.

This is reinforced through our Behaviour Policy and posters throughout the school promoting mutual respect.

5. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

St. Mary's RC Primary School acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity.

Throughout the year, assemblies are held focusing on bullying, with reference to prejudice based bullying, and discussion is encouraged.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum.

We encourage our pupils from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge with their peers to enhance their learning.

Staff training

At St. Mary's RC Primary School staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their thorough human resources induction. All staff complete regular Safeguarding training and all staff have completed the Prevent Strategy training.

Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the British Values Policy.

Review

This policy will be kept under regular review by the Whole Child Leader Assistant Headteacher) and amended as appropriate to reflect any changes to regulations.

Outcome:

At St. Mary's RC primary School, our vision refers to the education of 'the whole child' We believe strongly in education our pupils to become well balanced adults of the future who are well equipped for their future adult lives in Britain. Through our strong Catholic ethos and moral development, we teach the 'whole child' and are confident that our pupils learn British values alongside the Gospel values as these naturally go hand in hand.

Date: November 2015

Signed: Chair of Governors