



# *St John's Catholic Primary School*

*BATH*

## **British Values Statement**

At St John's Catholic Primary School, we are fully committed to actively promoting British values in line with Department for Education (DfE) recommendations and the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 to keep children safe and prepare them for life in modern Britain. We welcome the DfE's focus on strengthening the 'spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) standard' by actively promoting the 'fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs, and encourage students to respect other people, with particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010'. In October 2014, the Education Secretary Nicky Morgan further reinforced this; "We must not be shy about talking about fundamental British values... and schools should promote values such as 'mutual respect' and equality between girls and boys," she said, adding ideals such as democracy and tolerance must be 'woven' into the curriculum' (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-29627391>).

### **Democracy**

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our school council, known as 'Here For You'. Children volunteer for our school council. The children on the school council, gather views of the children in their class and discuss these at meetings. They are the eyes and ears of the school. They make suggestions as to how to improve our school and make it a better place. They raise money through events. They organise themselves in order to carry out these ideas.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities, such as the Police, Fire Service, and Lifeguards, are part of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and **are** advised how to exercise these safely; for example, through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, or how they record, or participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

## **Mutual Respect**

As a Catholic school we teach the children to have respect for everyone including the most vulnerable members of our society. Pupils participate in RE lessons and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. The school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as through the implementation of our behaviour policy.

## **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. We teach the children about different faiths, including Sikhism, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. The school has a large number of children with English as an Additional Language. Our different cultures and languages are shared and celebrated, enhancing learning in our classrooms.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of Governors

Reviewed: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
Due Review: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020