

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School British Values Statement



At St. Mary's, we ensure that through our Catholic ethos, STAR values and curriculum we teach tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. It is our responsibility to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. This statement outlines the key British values we actively promote.

St. Mary's is committed to serving its community and in doing so, recognising the multi-cultural, multi-faith nature of the United Kingdom and understanding the crucial role our school plays in teaching these values.

Through our provision we:

- Enable children to develop their self-esteem and self-confidence
- Enable children to distinguish right from wrong
- Encourage children to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living in our community and in the wider world
- Encourage respect for others
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for the democratic processes, including respect for the way in which the law is made and applied in England
- Teach an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- Teach an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- Encourage acceptance of people with different faiths, beliefs or no beliefs should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- Teach an understanding of the importance of identifying and standing up to discrimination

Democracy

Understand how children can influence decision making through a democratic process.

We empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing 'pupil voice' and listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty.

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, Eco Council and pupil questionnaires. The School Council is led by the Headteacher and adheres to democratic processes. The principle of democracy is also explored in the History and RE curriculum as well as in assemblies.

The Rule of Law

Appreciate that living under the rule of law protects us and is vital for our wellbeing and safety.

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country, are

consistently reinforced throughout the school day, when dealing with behaviour: 'Ready, Respectful, Safe, and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws and understand that they are there to govern and protect us. They are taught the importance of taking responsibility for themselves and the consequences of laws being broken.

We have a clearly structured behaviour policy which all staff understand and follow.

The concept of the Rule of Law is also reinforced through our PSHE curriculum.

Individual Liberty

Understand that the freedom to choose is protected in law.

Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are taught to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms. They are guided on how to exercise their rights safely, for example through E-Safety and the PSHE module 'Created to Love Others'.

Mutual Respect

Understand that people hold different views, and while we may not agree, we should respect that.

Our Catholic ethos revolves around our STAR values, with 'R' standing for respect. Pupils understand, through our weekly STAR assemblies, what this means and how it is shown. PSHE lessons and circle time rules emphasise the 'safe space' to give opinions and share ideas.

Our PSHE curriculum embodies values of Mutual Respect through the module 'Created to Live in a Community'. Through PE, we promote an attitude of equality and fairness. Empathy, respect and tolerance are also taught through carefully chosen texts in English and Reading lessons, within RE lessons and on an informal nature throughout the school days.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Accept that others have different faiths, beliefs or no beliefs) and these should be accepted and tolerated.

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and class discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are held regularly. Although our RE curriculum, Ten:Ten focuses broadly on the Catholic faith, it includes Other Faiths weeks throughout the academic year, providing a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

At St. Mary's we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist views'.