

Promoting British Values at St. Mary's CE Primary School

The DfE have reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. At St. Mary's, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

The School Council meets regularly to discuss ideas and issues on a given agenda. Our school council is made up of a range of children in various year groups across our school. Their class peers vote the school council members into their position. The members are responsible for a range of school activities and projects from organising coffee mornings for various charities, meeting and greeting parents and visitors to finding out and acting upon the feedback from their peers on a range of subjects. Our school council has been given the challenge of working on an Eco project this year which directly helps our school and community environment. Our Head Boy and Head girl are a strong part of our school voice. They share their ideas regularly with Senior Leaders and have been trained to observe teaching and learning across the school and give constructive feedback. Their role is to be the face of the school community and uphold the ethos and core values of St Mary's.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at St. Mary's. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the academy. These are our School Rules. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and 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 and Fire Service help reinforce this message. 'Rules', 'Right and Wrong' and 'Laws' are taught and embedded as part of the academy's PSHCE scheme of work which

is delivered throughout the whole academy. We have chosen the Jigsaw scheme of work which embodies throughout its curriculum the British Values we expect to see and abide by.

Individual Liberty

At St. Mary's, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a Christian school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, for example, whether it is through choice of challenge, or simply by choosing to participate in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities. Our creative homework projects allow children to partake in activities that interest them and present them in interesting ways.

Mutual Respect

Part of our academy ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. The school ethos and aims promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and School Rules, as well as our behaviour policy. All staff and children at St Mary's demonstrate their deep respect for each other and their opinions. Our "Big Questions" and debating/ oracy skills promote the need for tolerance, respect and understanding throughout our curriculum. All children are encouraged to air their views and opinions in a safe environment whilst also challenging others opinions in a clear and respectful way.

Respect of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

St. Mary's is a Christian school. We are proud of our Religion and its teachings. Jesus taught us to "Love one another as I have loved you." Due to this we have respect for all regardless, religion or background. All our Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.