



## British Values Statement

The Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and the DfE has reinforced the need, *"to create and reinforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values."* These are:

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

At St James' Catholic Primary School, as part of their personal development, we uphold and teach our children about British Values and support the current Ofsted guidance published in September 2014:

*"ensure that they and the school promote tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (or those of no faith), cultures and lifestyles; and support and help, through their words, actions and influence within the school and more widely in the community, to prepare children and young people positively for life in modern Britain"*

Our school reflects British values in all that we do. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. Wherever possible, we take a global approach to learning by introducing themes from the perspective of other people in other countries.

As a Catholic community, our ethos is based on the Gospel values of love, respect and tolerance of others, which we promote through our curriculum (RE, PSHE and RSE), assemblies and literature. Our Mission Statement: "Together we are learning to follow Jesus" recognises that Jesus is our greatest teacher and we believe that British values and Gospel values are not mutually exclusive. Following Jesus' example, we strive for our school to be a place where everyone is equally respected and unconditionally loved.

We are committed to serving all within our community, local area and through our national and international links. In doing so, we actively promote and reinforce British values regularly across the curriculum and in the following ways:

**Democracy:** We actively promote and model democracy by:

- Providing our children with a broad knowledge of and promoting respect for public institutions and services e.g. MP visits into school, visits by the Police, Fire Service.
- Teaching the children how public services including Local Councillors operate and are held to account.

- Teaching children how they can influence decision making through the democratic process e.g. School Council. Class elections take part in order to elect members of the Student Council, with Year 6 additionally voting for Head Boy and Head Girl. We hold mock elections during Local and National Elections weeks, using manifestos and ballot boxes.
- Encouraging pupils to become involved in decision making processes and ensuring they are listened to in school e.g. Pupil Voice Questionnaires, Pupil-led organisation for Mini Vinnie events, School Council events and raising money for charities.
- Modelling how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged e.g. by teaching about inspirational figures such as Ghandi, Mandela, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. We have purchased literature about these inspirational people, alongside others.

**Rule of Law:** We actively promote and model the rule of law by:

- Ensuring school rules are clear and fair e.g. through our consistent behaviour policy.
- Helping children to distinguish right from wrong e.g. by using the example of Christ when dealing with behaviour that is not acceptable.
- Promoting respect for the law and the basis on which it is made e.g. through visitors such as PCSOs, Police, MP into school.
- Helping children to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals e.g. through our RE and PSHE curriculum, through focus sessions (e-safety and Safe Squad) and invited visitors.
- Having a behaviour policy that is linked to restorative justice e.g. that is based on the Christian value of forgiveness.

**Individual Liberty:** We actively promote and model individual liberty by:

- Supporting pupils to develop their self- knowledge, self- esteem and self- confidence e.g. through our Catholic ethos, our way of treating people, by investing heavily in meeting the needs of all of the children, by providing equality of opportunity, by knowing and understanding the needs of all of the children.
- Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour as well as knowing their rights e.g. through linking rights with responsibilities, by having a fair and consistent behaviour management policy.
- Challenging stereotypes e.g. visitors into school.

**Respect and Tolerance:** We actively promote and model respect and tolerance by:

- Helping children to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life e.g. through Geography, International Links and Religious Education.
- Openly discussing and celebrating the differences between people such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender and different family situations.
- Sporting activities promoting an attitude of equality and fairness. We celebrate awards and achievements gained from both school and outside school activities during the weekly award assemblies.
- The school takes an interest in national and international news events and sometimes these are used as a stimulus for cross curricular work.

We also enjoy marking and celebrating events of special national and international significance, such as Remembrance Day, The World Cup and the General Election.

Approved by the Governing Body:

Date:

Review Date: March 2026