

BRITISH VALUES

It has been a statutory duty for schools to actively promote and teach British Values from September 2014. St Mary Magdalene C of E Primary School are committed to serving our community: we regularly hold community events and visit the local church as often as we can. We recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom and understand the vital role we have in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them. We follow equal opportunities guidance which actively works to prevent discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. St Mary Magdalene C of E Primary School is dedicated to preparing children for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values to all our pupils.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. The five key British Values are:

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

At St Mary's, we use strategies within and beyond the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for our pupils. The examples that follow show some of the many ways that we seek to instil British Values, and the impact on children's knowledge and skills.

Democracy

Democracy is part of the day to day life within the school. It is modelled by all staff within the building who 'show tolerance and respect for the rights of others,' and 'act with integrity and honesty'. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard on a daily basis, with adults taking the time to listen and respond. Pupil voice is high on our agenda: children are consulted regularly during curriculum reviews and this informs feedback that senior leaders give to staff about the effectiveness of their teaching. Our School Council members are democratically elected annually having shared their reasons for applying with the whole school. Regular meetings are led by staff and also model a democratic decision making process. The School Council were consulted on our behaviour policy as part of the leadership team's review. Democracy is taught to the children and they are encouraged to follow the news in relation to voting, with children given opportunities to debate the issues currently being addressed through P4C. They also vote each year for whole school awards. The children have contributed to the school prayer through class contributions and subsequent Worship Group collaboration.

The Rule of Law: truth and justice

Honesty is one of the school's core Christian values, as is forgiveness. As a school we have a set behaviour policy that has created in consultation with School Council and agreed by everyone working in the school. The importance of rules and rights are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days when staff are dealing with behaviour. When children behave well they receive praise; conversely when they're behaviour does not live up to our shared expectations, support is given and pupils understand that consequences are upheld. Pupils learn with restorative practices where they are given opportunity to talk openly with each other to put right what has gone wrong and learn for next time. The school actively supports children in it being a 'safe place to make mistakes'. Pupils are taught the value of truth and justice through the use of parables and the teachings of Jesus. In the same vein, pupils are taught about forgiveness. They understand that these values are the backbone of British laws and that they have a responsibility to uphold them. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; Ambulance staff etc. help to 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 a culture of independent learning. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our P4C, Philosophy Club, E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Classroom environments allow pupils to make active decisions about how they want to learn. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, whether through choice of challenge, how they record their work, or their individual participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities.

Mutual Respect

Respect for self and each other is a value that is at the centre of our school ethos. Through Collective Worship, pupils are encouraged to listen and respect the views of others. Collective Worship promotes respect for people of other faiths and none, and pupils have been part of discussions related to what this means and how it is shown. Our school behaviour policy promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and rules. Additional support is given to individual children to help develop self-esteem and the concept of respect. When a child does something well their achievement is celebrated in a weekly 'Celebration Assembly', or our half-termly 'Ethic of Excellence Assemblies'.

Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs

We value the importance of helping to shape the pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Our RE Curriculum includes direct teaching about others' faiths so that children learn to respect others' beliefs and views, including the views of those without faith. Collective Worship discussions involve examining prejudices and prejudice based bullying are also held. Discussions in P4C regularly facilitate opportunities for children to ask existential questions.