

## British Values

### Our Mission Statement

*"Jesus says, - Where people come together in my name, I am with them" Matthew 18:20*

As a Christian learning community, which promotes the values of family life, we support parents/carers as primary educators of their children and recognise the rights of the child.

Through a curriculum that encourages **creativity** at every opportunity, we challenge all within our community to strive for the highest standard of personal, social and intellectual development, and aim for excellence in all we do.

We recognise that we are all unique and aim to support each other along our personal journey of faith, treating others with **respect**.

During the day to day life of our school and in all aspects of the curriculum we promote Gospel values, paying special consideration to **loving** our neighbour wherever they may live in the world.

We recognise the **Spirituality** of every member of our community and provide opportunities for all to experience prayer, worship and reflection.

*"My commandment is this - Love one another just as I love you" John 15:12*



Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters

– Article 14 UNCRC

The Department for Education is currently reinforcing the requirement **"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 and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014.

### Promoting British Values at St Mary's

Our mission statement and Christian values underpin all aspects of school life and our children's personal and spiritual development as human beings.

**Our School Values are:**

**Creativity**

**Love**

**Respect**

**Spirituality**

St. Mary's, as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School is committed to developing children who understand their rights and responsibilities as Global Citizens and it is through our innovative curriculum, RE curriculum, our Catholic Social Teaching and our school values and vision that we promote the British Values of:

**Democracy**

**Personal Responsibility and Liberty**

**Rule of Law**

**Mutual Respect**

**Tolerance of Culture, Faith and others**

**Democracy:** Democracy has a high profile within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Pupil Council and pupil questionnaires. The election of class councillors and of House Captains in Year 6 is based solely on pupil votes. Our school values of *Creativity, Respect, Love* and *Spirituality* were chosen through democratic process involving the children as were our class names.

Our gifted group /'Infinity Group' in Y6 run and manage projects for the benefit of others in the school. Working independently they make decisions as a group as to areas of need in school (library/ICT suite/reward system/events such as solar eclipse) and then work towards managing these for the good of other pupils.

**Personal Responsibility and Individual Liberty:** Within school, children 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, thus our education is empowering our young people. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and we advise how children can exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety talks, anti-bullying sessions, 'British Values' talks from the safer schools community team and PSHE lessons.

*Our children are given the freedom to make choices;*

Children in Early Years have child initiated opportunities during 'Plan, Do, Review' time where they are able to select where they want to learn, what they want to learn and who with. They have the opportunity to choose whether they want to learn indoors or outside and can free flow throughout the day. This is carried on into Year 1, especially during the autumn term where the children still have many child initiated opportunities and the freedom to make their

own choices in their learning.

There is the freedom in upper Key Stage 2 to take part in activities run during curriculum time. Children are trusted to help define tasks, designate roles, manage each other's activities, reflect on success and areas for improvement and write their own letters home to inform parents that they wish to pursue an off-site visit (Museum/Library/Local M.P.'s office).

**The Rule Of Law:** It is expected that pupils should understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law.

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, playground, lunchtimes, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced for example when dealing with behaviour and through school worships/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 Safer Schools Community Team and Fire Service are regular parts of our curriculum calendar.

Our website is continually updated and our values are communicated through new media (blogs, Twitter).

**Mutual Respect:** Our Mission Statement and Behaviour Policy revolve around our school values of *Creativity, Respect, Love* and *Spirituality* and pupils have been part of discussions and worships/assemblies which focus on what our Mission Statement means and how it is 'lived' in our school. Our values are displayed at the beginning of every assembly and liturgy and signage and images around the school also helps to promote our school values. We encourage everyone to be a 'role model' for mutual respect.

Pupils must be encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

Children taking part in the Book Group with Father Mark are asked to read a range of advanced texts from a range of cultures. Discussion so far this year: Stalin's Russia (Anna Ahkmatova), London in the time of Dickens "Bleak House", rural Indian life (Rabindranath Tagore), Robert Frost's pastoral scene "Nothing Gold Can Stay" and the isolation of not "fitting in" in Japan (Haruki Murakami). At the end of this run of sessions, these children will share these insights with the rest of KS2 in a special assembly. A small group of children in Y6 have also been successful in obtaining funding from the "Youth in the Community Fund" which encourages young people to look beyond their life in school and engage with others in the local area.

**Tolerance Of Those With 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. Worships/assemblies, workshops and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been supported by learning in RE and PSHE. The school successfully supports children and families with English as an Additional Language.

We are a school which respects all faiths and those with no faith. Staff and children are members of different faiths or religions and everybody is encouraged to share their knowledge

to enhance learning within classes and the school.

In Foundation we have coffee mornings with Mrs Hickman where all parents are welcomed. Our 'Work with us Friday' coffee morning gives parents the opportunity to meet other families, ask any questions about how their child is learning in school and for us to share any important information.

**We will actively challenge the children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.**



### **How we approach promoting British Values at St Mary's**

#### **Rule of Law**

**Through our provision, St. Mary's enables students to:**

- distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England

#### **How we do this:**

- School Behaviour policy – all stakeholders are aware of the policy and it is understood and followed.
- All work linked to Rights Respecting Schools
- Pupils have regular opportunities to reflect e.g. learning, their behaviour, during assemblies, liturgies and Masses.
- Pupil interviews on behaviour
- Parent/carers questionnaires relating to behaviour, safety etc.
- Links with the local police (Safer Schools Community team) to visit and carry out assemblies/ year group discussions and workshops linked to themes:
  - ✓ e-Safety
  - ✓ anti-bullying
  - ✓ racism
  - ✓ role of police, fire and ambulance
  - ✓ why we have rules in our school
  - ✓ why we have laws in England and consequences of breaking laws
  - ✓ keeping safe and being a positive member of school and community
  - ✓ Anti-Social Behaviour- the law and responsibility
  - ✓ diversity and differences

- Assemblies with a focus linked to the law e.g. school rules, Parliament etc planned in to assembly timetable throughout the year, especially during the time of elections.
- Discrete lessons taught throughout Jigsaw and PSHE lessons in classes through the following Jigsaw pieces:
  - ✓ Becoming a class team
  - ✓ Being a school citizen
  - ✓ Rights, responsibilities and democracy

**The list below describes the understanding and knowledge expected of pupils as a result of schools promoting fundamental British values:**

- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety
- an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence.

## **Mutual respect & Tolerance of Culture, Faith and others**

**Through our provision, St. Mary's enables students to:**

- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people.

**How we do this:**

- The school vision, aims and ethos of the whole school
- Being a Level 1 Rights Respecting School
- Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning taught across all year groups as part of the PHSE curriculum/Jigsaw scheme of work
- Positive relationships encouraged and modelled, pupil – pupil, adult – pupil
- R.E curriculum and Catholic Social Teaching, Global citizenship and through our Anti-Racism agenda
- Links with international schools (Brittany school). Video conferencing to discuss British/French culture and through our French student visit to St. Mary's.
- Anti-bullying week planned for 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015
- Anti-bullying workshops from outside drama groups
- School Council
- Competitive Sports
- Peer Mediators in the playground
- Year 6 children working with younger children. Our 'Infinity group' works with different children and during our 'Week of Code' they helped children in each year group.
- Older and younger children paired together when walking from Church to St. Mary's.

- Celebrations of cultural days e.g. our Chinese New Year assembly and Chinese dragon that was in school to work with our younger children.
- Class visits to different places of worship

**The list below describes the understanding and knowledge expected of pupils as a result of schools promoting fundamental British values.**

- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination

## **Democracy**

**Through our provision, St. Mary's enables students to develop:**

- a respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.
- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;

**How we do this:**

- Children are involved in Democratic processes e.g. choosing class rewards/targets, school councillors, individual rewards and incentives etc. Our 'Sandwich Board' in our 'Speakers Corner' allows for children to ask questions and voice their opinions.
- Democracy linked assemblies
- Weekly voting system for the **Good Samaritan Award/ Witness of the Week**
- School council meets with School Councils from other Poole LA schools
- Year 6 children given the opportunity to meet with local MPs and raise and discuss questions/issues that concern them.
- Discrete lessons about democracy taught through Jigsaw and PSHE lessons in classes

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an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.

## **Personal Responsibility and Liberty**

**Through our provision, St. Mary's enables students to:**

- develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;

**How we do this:**

- Through the school vision, aims and ethos
- Being a Level 1 Rights Respecting School
- Achieving Foundation International School Award. Links with a school in Brittany.
- Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) taught across all year groups as part of the PHSE curriculum/Jigsaw scheme of work.
- Positive relationships encouraged and modelled, pupil – pupil, adult – pupil.
- R.E. curriculum
- Equalities, Inclusion and Safeguarding policy
- Cultural theme days e.g. Chinese New Year and Chinese dragon
- Reflection opportunities in collective worship
- Reflective areas in classrooms

**The list below describes the understanding and knowledge expected of pupils as a result of schools promoting fundamental British values.**

- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.