



## St Mary's Catholic Primary School

### Policy on British Values

Date: September 2017

Review Date: Autumn 2018

Person responsible: Miss M Jackson

Agreed by Governors

At St Mary's, we promote fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths/beliefs.

We aim to develop:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process;
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- An understanding of the judiciary system;
- 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 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.

At St Mary's we promote British values in a range of ways, including:

#### Democracy

- Having a School Council-elected by the children
- Having a Head boy and Head girl-elected by the children
- Highlighting the development of democratic ideas in history lessons
- Allowing pupils to vote in a range of situations linked to school life eg selecting a charity they wish to support via a class ballot;
- Ensuring all pupils are listened to by adults;
- Inviting MPs, the Mayor and other speakers to the school;
- Holding mock elections.

At the beginning of each year, children affirm the school's expectations, along with the rights and responsibilities associated with these. The children and staff actively engage with each other to create a happy, learning environment where everyone is responsible for the rules.

St Mary's has an active School Council and children are elected each year by their peers. Children who sit on the School Council understand the importance of representing others.

The Head boy and Head girl are elected by Y5/6 children and represent the school.

Many children are encouraged to be leaders at St Mary's. KS2 children are play leaders and help younger children at break/lunch. Older Juniors are Library and ICT monitors, encouraging younger children to use the resources wisely. There are specific time slots when they are on duty. KS2 are also asked to be Faith Friends and help the other children by leading prayer groups and undertaking extra tasks.

Democracy is taught during assemblies and PSHE lessons. Children are regularly given the opportunity to express their views through Pupil Voice interviews and RE/PSHE discussions. They take an active part in nominating children for PSHE awards.

### The Rule of Law

- Having a clear behaviour policy that is explained to all;
- Highlighting the rules of the church and God in the RE curriculum, for example the 10 Commandments.

Behaviour is outstanding at St Mary's and children feel safe. Children know what is expected from them and understand why rules are so important. They are aware of the consequences if rules are broken. The curriculum is reviewed regularly to ensure children are fully engaged and behaviour remains outstanding. At St Mary's, we want our children to become independent learners.

We ensure that children are aware of the responsibilities that come with having rights. They develop independence in managing relationships and behaviour. We encourage children to resolve conflict and right any wrongs.

At St Mary's, we encourage children to be leaders throughout the school. They understand that the rules created in class permeate through all activities and events. Children are aware that they act as school ambassadors on educational visits.

### Individual liberty

- Encouraging children to be independent in their learning;
- Providing children with opportunities for reflection.

St Mary's is a safe place for children and adults. It is a supportive environment. Children are aware that there are boundaries and how they can make choices wisely. They are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights. Regular e-safety sessions are provided, along with PSHE lessons. Children are given the freedom to make choices. They are given ownership of their learning. Children are regularly given next steps whether verbally or written so they know exactly how to progress in their learning.

### Mutual Respect

- Having a Mission Statement that is inclusive;
- Constantly promoting respect for others as good manners;

- Reinforcing the value of everyone's opinions in class discussions;
- Having an effective anti-bullying policy;
- Emphasising in RE and PSHE lessons that every person is unique and 'created in the image of God';
- Having links with other schools;
- Supporting charitable work.

We nurture an understanding of mutual respect at St Mary's, where kindness, resilience, honesty and respect are fostered. The children and staff understand our values and work in a manner that encourages everyone to achieve their best. Assemblies regularly cover RESPECT and children have been part of discussions related to what this actually means and how we show it. Children's achievements are celebrated. Work is displayed well and there are Achievement assemblies. Learning and effort are highly respected. The whole school is focused on developing an intrinsic sense of worth and achievement. At St Mary's, we take part in many competitions with other local schools in the Borough and take pride in representing our school. Supporting charities is a strong feature through the year and children take an active part in raising money and deciding upon the charity to be supported.

#### Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- Having a deep understanding of their own faith as well as an awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as a basis for understanding and respecting them;
- Showing how Jesus encouraged tolerance in stories such as The Good Samaritan and The Woman at the Well.

This is achieved through enhancing children's understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. We take part in many local sporting competitions where children see the richness of cultures. Assemblies are regularly held where children hear stories about religious festivals throughout the school year. In the RE scheme of work, children learn about other faiths and beliefs. Our core values ensure children show respect for the individual person.