

# **Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy**



***Learn to Love; Learn to Believe; Learn to Achieve.***

*In our school Christ is at the centre and children  
are at the heart of all that we do:*

*We inspire everyone to succeed to reach their potential  
in a safe inclusive happy environment;*

*We develop resilient hard working independent individuals  
who are confident to take risks.*

## **British Values Statement**

**Date: 13 May 2019**

**Review Date: May 2020**

**Signed by Chair of Governors: Mrs S Buller**

The government set out its definition of 'British values' in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011), which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalisation of young people. British values are considered by the present government to be democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. The promotion of 'British values' is central to Catholic education because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

"We are proud that Catholic schools promote values that are both Catholic and British, including: respect for the individual, democracy, individual liberty, respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. Our schools promote cohesion by serving more ethnically diverse and poorer communities. Catholic schools provide high standards of education which are popular with parents from all social, economic and faith backgrounds."

*Paul Barber (Catholic Education Service 15 December 2014)*

Within our School we recognise, not only the importance of helping children to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the Common Good of all. We teach the importance of British values by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian Values. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why British values are important. Our framework for understanding British values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all, which is developed in Catholic Social Teaching. We provide an education which focuses on the formation of the whole person and on our vocation and purpose in life. We are guided by our mission statement and by the Christian values of honourable purpose (that is, vocation and service), respect, compassion, co-operation and stewardship as we reflect on our place and purpose in the world. We place a significant emphasis on the celebration of individuality and difference within our community and our calling to work for the Common Good, in the service of others. Our Catholic ethos, which includes explicit reference to Christian and British values, makes a tangible difference to the way we work together and with our wider communities.

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British values at Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

## **Democracy**

Democracy is embedded across the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard.

Other examples of 'pupil voice' are:

- Children agree their Class Rules Charter and the rights associated with these; all children contribute to the drawing up of the charter
- Children are asked to respond and reflect on the teaching and learning
- Children are invited to vote on and contribute their ideas to changes such as new school house names and our behaviours for learning

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

Children have an annual questionnaire with which they are able to put forward their views about the school and their learning.

## **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the School, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout every day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through Acts of Worship. The curriculum is designed to ensure students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from and to authorities such as the Police and Fire Service are regular parts of our learning programmes and help reinforce this message as well as the promotion of road safety across the curriculum.

## **Individual Liberty**

Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, child led research topics, or participation in our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

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 our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, e.g. signing up for extra-curricular clubs or selecting the level of challenge in a lesson. Children across the school are becoming increasingly involved in child-led learning, e.g. through the creative curriculum offered in KS1 and the application of 'talk less teaching' approaches used across the school designed to promote independent thinking and help build resilience in our ever-changing world.

Pupils at Saint Mary's are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and PSHE lessons.

## **Mutual Respect**

Respect is a core value for our School and is modelled by the children and staff alike. We promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments as well as extra-curricular activities such as sport.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to *everyone*, whatever differences we may have, and to *everything*, whether it is a school resource, a religious belief or whatever. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community should treat each other with respect. We take a strong stance on social inclusion and anti-bullying through an explicit focus on strategies to enable respect for difference detailed in our anti-bullying policy.

Specific examples of how we at Saint Mary's enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- through RE, SEAL and other lessons where we might develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures – in English through fiction and in Art and Music by considering culture and traditions from other parts of the world, for example.
- enjoying a depth of study during theme days supporting local, regional and international links. Sometimes we will celebrate and enjoy learning about the differences in countries and cultures around the world (whilst at other times we might consider groups or individuals who might be vulnerable in some way)
- Educational visits to places of religious worship. e.g. Manchester Synagogue
- Members of different faiths or religions are invited to share their knowledge of their culture and beliefs with the children.
- The use of world events as opportunities to positively reinforce life and culture in other countries (football world cup, the Olympics, etc.)