



Promoting British Values Policy

St Mary's Catholic Academy
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy



“Many hearts, one accord: In God’s love we learn and grow together to build the kingdom of God.’

‘Doing as He tells us: in God’s love we learn and grow together to build the kingdom of God.’

(Schools’ Mission Statements)

Context

Schools in the UK have a responsibility to promote British values, as outlined in the [Department for Education's British Values guidance \(last updated in 2014\)](#). This means that teaching and learning about British values should be an integral part of the school experience, and should be reflected, in all aspects of school life. They are seen as being fundamental to British society and as promoting cohesion and integration. The promotion of these values is also seen as a way to protect children from extremist ideologies and to help prepare them for life in modern Britain.

Introduction

For schools in the UK, [British values](#) refers to a set of values that the government believes are important for children to learn. They are sometimes referred to as **Fundamental British Values** or **Core British Values** and they include respect for the rule of law, individual liberty, democracy, and mutual respect for and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. The promotion of these values in schools is part of the government's efforts to create a more cohesive and integrated society, as well as a way to protect children from extremist ideologies.

The promotion of British values began after the terrorist attacks in London in 2005. After the attacks, the government introduced a number of policies and initiatives aimed at promoting British values in schools, including the [PREVENT program](#), designed to prevent radicalisation and extremism. This training is delivered to our staff every academic year.

As part of our curriculum, we want to ensure that our learners have a shared respect for what makes our school community special within the context of what being a responsible member of the world beyond them means.

Intent

In accordance with Our Catholic faith and the Department for Education, we aim to, actively promote, British values in school, to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance and 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.

Implementation

We value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all our pupils and their families and plan a variety of events and learning experiences to celebrate and reinforce to our children what it means to be 'British'. We also celebrate national events that reflect important landmarks in shaping our nation, such as St Georges Day and Remembrance Day.

The school has daily worship/assemblies which uphold our traditional Catholic Virtues and Values as well as this empathy, respect, tolerance. These values are reflected in ethos of the school. These, are also taught within weekly PHSE and RE lessons and in an informal nature throughout the school day.

The DfE have recently reinforced the need "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 have been reiterated this year (2025). Staff will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

In our schools, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy is the foundation of the UK's political system. This British value is based on the idea that everyone should have an equal say in how their country is run, and that the government should be accountable to the people. All things voting, elections and referendums come in to play here.

Each year the children decide upon their class rules and their rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the class rules ensuring that expectations and therefore behaviours are agreed, known and permeate all aspects of

school life. In all subjects we often have class votes, using a tally chart system to determine all manner of class activities. Children are often given the chance to self-evaluate and to comment upon their tasks to inform future lessons and teachers planning.

We have an active school council which meets each half-term. The members of the School Council are democratically elected from within their own class Years 2 to 6. To achieve success in this area is an honour and the children take part in writing manifestos and secret ballots to establish the successful candidate. These democratically elected school council members liaise with their peers and listen carefully at organised meetings. The concerns and suggestions of the class are then brought to the formal School Council Meeting which is supported by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The school council have been involved in gathering opinion about school issues such as which charities to support and playtime improvements. School council members have been taught to implement a 'majority rule' when voting on particular issues. In all classes and in all areas we promote the right to freedom of speech. They also vote and select the end of year 100% attendance trip. The School Council deliver assemblies such as Anti-Bullying and work to complete an action plan, of their own creation, throughout their year in office. Their action plan is shared at staff meetings on an annual basis and they visit parliament once a year usually in the autumn term. We are also members of the UK Parliament Teacher network.

Our PSHE provision 'Jigsaw' was specifically chosen because of the quality of the intention of the programme. All classes follow The Jigsaw Charter:

- We take turns to speak
- We use kind and positive words
- We listen to each other
- We have the right to pass

We only use names when giving compliments and being positive

We respect each other's privacy (confidentiality)

Parents have planned opportunities to voice their opinions and there is an 'open door' policy.

The Rule of Law

Respect for the rule of law means that everyone in society is treated equally and fairly, and that everyone follows the same rules and laws. This value promotes a sense of order and stability in society, and helps to prevent crime and other harmful behaviours. The UK justice system is a large part of this, including laws, police officers and courts.

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. Expectations are reinforced regularly and opportunities are sought frequently to praise positive choices.

Keeping safe when using the internet is regularly discussed with children in computing lessons and in assemblies. On- line safety is a feature of every year groups computing provision and an area we actively discuss at every opportunity. All members of the school community sign our Acceptable Use Policy and pledge to use the internet safely. Pupils modelling behaviour consistent with the school's high expectation are regularly recognised and used as role models to others. PSHE circle time is used as an opportunity to discuss difficult situations that benefit from whole class discussion.

Opportunities are provided regularly for children and staff to participate or spectate in sporting activities which represent good examples of fairness, rules and etiquette in sport for example Multi Skills. Extra-curricular clubs emphasise why rules and boundaries are necessary to ensure safety

The St Mary's Home-School agreement sets out the contract between the school, the child and their parents.

The school has very good links with authorities such as the Police and Fire Service, who visit and help to reinforce the Rule of Law and educate our children on ways to keep themselves safe.

Tolerance

Tolerance is the ability or willingness to live with the existence of opinions or behaviour that you dislike or disagree with.

Within St Mary's and Our Lady Of Grace we constantly promote tolerance towards others from different backgrounds, cultures, languages, faiths and beliefs.

Our Religious Education syllabus and Personal, Social, Health and Emotional curriculum reinforce our commitment towards a tolerant society. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths and children from a local school visit us each year to talk about Islam and what it is like to be a Muslim. At every opportunity we explore the similarities between religions and cultures.

Within RE we dedicate each half-term to a focus on a particular quality that we wish our children to develop. During our Values and Virtues assembly pupils are asked to reflect upon the way in which we display these qualities which challenge us to be Curious & Active, Intentional & Prophetic, Grateful & Generous, Attentive & Discerning, Compassionate & Loving and Faith-filled & Hopeful

Our Geography curriculum examines other countries and their cultures. We build a firm knowledge of our own country and our own locality within it. We recognise that to appreciate others one must first understand oneself.

At St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace we will actively challenge pupils, staff, parents or anyone in the school community expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect involves accepting differences in a respectful manner- you can disagree on opinions but still get on as people.

Children learn that their behaviour has an impact on their rights and those of others. There are many opportunities to develop SMSC (Social, Emotional, Spiritual and Cultural Education) across the curriculum for example through R.E., PSHE, PE, Art, Music, History, Geography, Science and English. Children are encouraged to work in collaboration as much as possible either in their class, with other year groups, as mediators, and with other schools in sport or at music and dance festivals.

All members of the school community treat each other with respect. We publish all our behaviour policies on the website and parents, pupils and staff sign a Home-School agreement setting out our expectations. Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. High levels of mutual respect are demonstrated daily in the excellent relationships between staff and pupils. We participate in anti-bullying week in November and remind ourselves of the key anti-bullying messages throughout the year.

We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

In class, we listen to a range of stories about different faiths and culture. Throughout all areas of the curriculum, children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others.

Individual Liberty

Individual liberty allows people to pursue their own goals and interests, providing they do not harm others. This British value is based on the idea that people should be free to make their own decisions and choices within the bounds of the law, of course.

At St Mary's, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and empowering environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and

exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; for example, in computing through our approach to Online Safety.

At St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace pupils are given the freedom to make many choices, be this in class, through their choice of learning challenges, a wide range of extra-curricular activities, through fundraising or their choice of sporting opportunities, for example.

Safeguarding our pupils and staff is paramount and PSHE/e-Safety lessons equip pupils with the skills to make safe choices. On-Line safety is taught in every year group throughout the school and is discussed at all opportunities.

Black History

At St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace, children are taught about the history of black people. Typically, the achievements of inspiring black role models such as athletes, authors, poets, actors and musicians are celebrated, too. Focusing on black history heroes is a great way to celebrate the contributions of Black People to society, art and culture.

Black History Month UK is a celebration of black history that takes place 1-31 October every year. We believe, it is essential to ensure that children know what Black History Month actually is and why it is celebrated. Explaining this to children might seem straightforward, but there's actually a lot for young learners to unpack and understand. Although some aspects of British history (particularly those beyond living memory) are difficult to teach young children, focusing on arts and culture is a great way to help children learn about more recent events - post-war history, particularly.

How is it taught?

A simple, straightforward approach to teaching about Black History Month UK is best for younger children in the Early Years, Children are taught using, stories, puppets and visitors. In KS1 and lower KS2, a discussion about why it's good to see a range of people with different skin tones and appearances in books, TV programmes and films will get children thinking about why visibility of minority ethnic groups, including Black British people, is important.

Looking at inspiring role models is also great a great way to teach lower KS2 children about the discrimination that historically significant black figures experienced, and how they overcame this adversity.

Children in Years 5 and 6 (upper Key Stage 2) are more experienced historians, and as such, ready to be challenged with some deeper learning about Black British history.

Learning about how communities of black Caribbeans arose in areas of Britain after the end of the Second World War—and Windrush—is a great way to teach children about how modern Britain has been shaped by black culture.

Therefore Black History is taught through a differentiated, age-appropriate approach because we as a school believe that teaching the meaning of Black History Month is necessary to ensure all primary children can learn something - and celebrate Black British history, too.

Black History through the Curriculum

In 2020 an education campaign was launched to get Black British History embedded in the national curriculum and taught in schools in England all year round, as an alternative to the limitation of Black History Month. Therefore, at St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace we are committed to ensure that there is diversity across the curriculum throughout the academic year which is reflected in many different ways including:

- Assemblies
- Displays
- Art
- History
- Music

Class texts and reading books

At St Marys and Our Lady of Grace we believe that learning about history helps us understand the world today, and will show children how events in the past have shaped the world we live in. It will also help our school be a more understanding place.

Impact

- Children will demonstrate and apply the British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Mutual respect, Tolerance and individual Liberty.
- Children will become healthy and responsible members of society
- Children will be on their journey preparing them for life and work in modern Britain.
- Children will have an understanding of the history of black people and their contributions to society.

This policy was agreed by staff on:

This policy was approved by School Committee on:

This policy will be reviewed by the School Committee on:

Signed _____ Chair of School Committee