

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School  
*"where everyone is special"*

## P78: British Values



### Mission Statement 2012

With Christ at the heart of our Catholic community,  
our mission is to:

- ✘ nurture the potential in each individual,
- ✘ celebrate achievement,
- ✘ and develop an awareness of service  
to God and each other

**Adopted by the school: November 2015**

**Review: As needed**

*"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).*

## Introduction

As of November 2014, the DfE reiterated the message that schools must promote British values. Advice from the DfE is to do this through SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development), although Ofsted will assess it through the curriculum too. Ofsted wants to see a school ethos and climate that promotes 'British values' at every level. Inspectors will assess 'British values' through SMSC, the curriculum and school leadership.

## What are British Values?

According to Ofsted, 'fundamental British values' are:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

## What must be taught?

- 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 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;
- 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.

The Department for Education has also provided following examples of the actions schools could take to promote British values:

- include in suitable parts of the curriculum - as appropriate for the age of pupils - material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries;
- ensure all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils;
- use opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections to promote fundamental British values and provide pupils with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view; and consider the role of extra-curricular activity, including any run directly by pupils, in promoting fundamental British values.

## English Martyrs as a Catholic School ...

- Catholic Education takes place in communities inspired by the Spirit of Christ. Christ's commandment to love God and neighbour inspires a caring ethos which is expressed in relationships within and beyond Catholic Schools.
- Catholic Education is person-centred. It promotes the dignity, self-esteem and full development of each person who is made in God's image and uniquely loved by God.
- Catholic Education is inclusive. It is respectful of, and engages with people of all beliefs; it encourages the religious development of all in their own faith.
- Catholic Education is rooted in the Gospel values of Respect for Life, Love, Solidarity, Truth and Justice; it aims to harmonise faith and culture, build a better society and pursue the Common Good.
- Together Catholic Schools provide high quality, rounded education for all young people, so that they develop their full uniqueness and potential.

### In Catholic schools the person and message of Christ find expression in:

- Communities of Faith, Service, Prayer and worship
- The development of each person's full potential in a climate of joy, freedom, respect, challenge, cooperation and celebration.
- The enrichment of pupil life - intellectual, physical, spiritual, moral, social and emotional.
- The promotion of a spirit of charity, social justice, global awareness and concern for others leading to practical outreach and partnerships.
- A culture of tolerance where people of diverse identities are recognised, welcomed, respected and cherished.
- Listening, mutual understanding, trust, reconciliation, healing and peace
- The preparation of pupils to lead fulfilling and purposeful lives which will contribute to the Common Good.

### How do we teach British Values?

At English Martyrs below are some examples of how we actively teach and promote British values in the following ways:

#### Democracy

We have a Student Council which has two representatives from year 2 upwards. The council meets regularly with Miss Petras to discuss issues raised by their fellow classmates or upcoming school issues/projects. Pupils are asked to lead discussions with their classmates for consultation purposes eg new playground markings, Lenten Charities to support. Every child on the school council is voted for by their classmates. As a school we have regular questionnaires for the children to put forward their ideas and possible concerns. In the last two years we have changed some of our systems and procedures after feedback from the children.

The school have had 'mock elections', on the day of the general elections, the most notable was led by Year 6 who researched and debated in front of the whole school as the four main political parties in the Country. The children then voted for which party should be elected.

As a school we have demonstrated democracy with our interactions with parents, who are consulted on various topics/issues, such as the arrangements for Sports Day, Changes to year groups attending swimming, school P.T.F.A discos and timing of parent consultations. As a direct result of the consultation the model with the most votes was adopted.

Pupils vote for House Captains in Year 6.

In some classes, democracy and the democratic process is taught explicitly through theme/topic work.

### **The Rule of Law:**

Every class devise their own set of class rules for which everyone is to adhere to that year. These promises/rules are then shared and adopted in the opening mass of a school year.

The behaviour policy is clear and pupil questionnaires demonstrate that children know how to behave and what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

External visitors are welcome in the school, eg from the Police and Fire Service to reinforce the message of right and wrong and the consequences of laws being broken.

In the RE curriculum it highlights the rules of the Church and God, for example the 10 commandments and the Precepts of the Church.

### **Individual Liberty:**

We encourage all students to be independent in their learning and to think through their choices and opinion and the impact they have on others.

We regularly either in curriculum time or through collective worship provide opportunities for reflection as they take responsibility to discerning their vocation.

Pupils are actively encouraged to make good choices and to know the impact on others when they do not make good choices.

Through e-safety lessons, sex and relationships education, first aid training, bikeability to name a few, pupils are encouraged how to keep themselves safe and what they can do if they do not feel safe or are uncomfortable/anxious.

There is a strong anti-bullying culture in school which is supported by external visits from drama companies.

### **Mutual Respect:**

At English Martyrs school we have an inclusive mission statement. We have children of the Catholic Faith, a range of other faiths and no faith. All children are treated fairly irrespective of background or belief.

As a school we believe that having good manners and respect for others is important. This is modelled by staff and the relationships within school.

During class debates and discussions everyone's opinions are equally valued and respected even if they differ from our own set of beliefs.

An effective anti-bullying policy is in place.

Through RE and collective worship it emphasises the view that every person is unique and "created in the image of God"

As a school we raise significant amounts of funds for other charities. We support local, national and international charities throughout the year. We sing at various local nursing homes/sheltered accommodations, engendering a deep respect for the elderly and their life experiences. The Grandparents' Afternoon which is an event targeted at Grandparents who have become indispensable to many families in the modern world is an event where the children perform and sing whilst they are enjoying cake and tea as a way of saying a big thankyou to them and showing the community's appreciation towards them. The school was instrumental at the start of the Andrew Clark Trust which educates children in Burmar, we continually raise money to support the

charity work which improves the educational outcomes and life experiences for those less fortunate and deprived.

As a Catholic school we prepare Children for various Sacraments in a child's life: Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation (Year 3 and Year 6). All children irrespective of their own faith prepare for the Sacraments and all families are actively encouraged to participate fully in these events through parent meetings and the services themselves. This is a strength of the school with a strong sense of inclusivity and mutual respect.

### **Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs:**

Religious Education provides pupils with 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. Tolerance and respect is reinforced throughout.

As a school we look at stories when Jesus encouraged tolerance such as, 'The Good Samaritan' and 'The Women at the Well'.

Through the RE curriculum various festivals, celebrations and themes are taught in key stage 1. In Key Stage 2 a different faith/religion is chosen during the year to be studied in more depth enabling a greater understanding and appreciation of diversity.

School assemblies are linked to areas regarding British Values. Themes such as respect, tolerance and respect alongside other key religious festivals are important during assemblies. Other visitors are encouraged to lead assemblies enabling children to become tolerant of different beliefs and wider knowledge and understanding eg a local Christian Youth Leader leads assembly once a term, Black History month presentations led by an external guest involved in the initiative.