



## British Values at Saint Mary's

British Values and their important role came to a new prominence under David Cameron in 2014.

British Values are something that we have always worked hard on at Saint Mary's and are often praised for, as in our 2017 Ofsted Inspection. We promote British Values through our mission statement, our Religious Education, our own faith, our assemblies and worships and our day to day life at Saint Mary's. They are woven into everything we do. We also promote British Values through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and ensure our curriculum and teaching strives to educate the 'whole child' and provide inclusive learning. As a staff, we all strive to emanate British Values through our behaviour and act as role models for our children.

The term 'British Values' does not just apply to the values of Britain. The values set out apply to so many countries throughout the world - they differ in no way from the values of most western European countries.

Here are the ways in which we teach the 5 British Values at Saint Mary's:

### Democracy:

At Saint Mary's we ensure all pupils are given a voice. We give our children the chance to express their beliefs and thoughts and we listen to their opinions. We support democracy by:

- Our pupil council, sports ambassadors and house captains- Candidates have to give a speech as to why they would like the role. Fellow pupils then vote for them.
- Pupil voice questionnaire- all Key Stage 2 pupils take part in this annually. Their responses are then analysed by school and any areas of strength and weakness are shared with staff.
- Parent Conferences- these are held termly with a group of parents. Their ideas and thoughts are listened to and taken on board.

- Pupils respond to the marking of the teachers in their books
- Children agree to the class rules and take an active part in creating them
- Children, parents, staff and governors all create the mission statement together

### Rule of the Law:

At Saint Mary's we teach the importance of rules and laws that govern our households, our school, our wider community and our country. These are reinforced in our behaviour policy and mission statement and children are taught that there are consequences to their actions. We ensure that all members of our school community know the rules and behaviour policy and that we are consistent in delivering this. Children understand that rules are there to keep them and others safe. We also teach rule of the law in the following ways:

- Each class creates their own class rules and understand why this set of rules is important to them
- During subjects where rules are important e.g. PE and DT
- Visits from services such as the fire and rescue service

### Individual Liberty:

Alongside rules and laws we promote individual liberty throughout school. We believe that each child should be treated as an individual and differences should, and are, celebrated. At Saint Mary's we encourage pupils to become good and active citizens of our school community and their local community. We encourage choice and the right to say 'no'. We also encourage independence from an early age and know that being independent allows children to take some responsibility for their own actions. We provide a safe environment and boundaries for our children to make choices safely. Choices are encouraged at school in the following ways:

- Choices of how to respond to marking
- Choices of how to record work
- Choices of books to read
- Choices of food at lunch time
- Choices of play equipment
- Choices in lunch time and after school activities

### Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and belief:

Saint Mary's is a Roman Catholic Primary school and we are very proud of our faith identity. We also have children and staff in school who are not Catholic and are of different faiths or some, of no faith at all. Our pupils and staff know that it is expected that they treat everyone with respect whatever their differences might be. At Saint Mary's we enhance pupils' understanding of other faiths and beliefs by:

- Through RE lessons we develop an understanding and awareness of other cultures
- As part of our RE curriculum each class learns about other faiths; every class studies Judaism and then one other Religion (Hinduism, Sikhism or Islam) during the year. In these lessons the children will learn about the faith's beliefs, traditions and cultures and how they are similar or different to our own
- We have had Religious leaders of other faiths in school to speak to the children and parents of other faiths have also been in to speak to us
- We learn about similarities and differences in other countries through our geography lessons
- We consider how some cultures and countries have vulnerable people e.g. homeless people and refugees. We have had refugees visit our school to speak about their journey. We have been heavily involved in fundraising for a Syrian refugee family who are coming to live in our parish

We feel strongly at St Mary's that it is our duty to help develop our children into be respectful, tolerant, democratic and law abiding members of society, with support of their parents and the whole school community.