

*St. Margaret Ward  
Catholic Primary School*



*Teaching British Values at  
St Margaret Ward*

*“Learning and Living in the Love of God”*

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## St Margaret Ward Catholic Primary School British Values Policy

### Our Mission Statement:

At St Margaret Ward we are all special and we want to grow to be good and kind people. We try to do our best in everything, just as Jesus showed us.

- We are a Catholic School and we live in the love of God
- Everyone in our school is special
- We try to do our best in everything we do
- We are proud of our school and always try to be kind and helpful to each other, doing our best to make school a cheerful and happy place
- We try to put Jesus first, others next and ourselves last
- We try to remember that everyone we meet is part of God's family

### Introduction:

As a Catholic school our ethos is to uphold the values of the Gospel: respect for the life and dignity of each individual; trust in God; honesty; compassion; forgiveness; mercy; community; servant leadership; equality; simplicity; justice and peace. These values are embedded in all that we teach and are promoted in all of our interactions with others in the school and the wider community. We fully recognise and embrace the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom.

### Aims:

We have a clear Equality policy which aims to prevent discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status or similar. St Margaret Ward also seeks to lay the foundations for our pupils' future lives, beyond the formal curriculum, preparing them for the diverse and dynamic society in which they will live and work. An understanding of British values is a critical part of this education. The Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 'Prevent' strategy and the Department for Education has reinforced the need 'to

create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values'. Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to these values, which are:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

### **British Values in the Life of Our School:**

Many of these values are embedded within our Catholic Ethos and Mission, but in addition to this, at St Margaret Ward we use strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure pupils' understanding of the wider implications of British values. The examples that follow show some of the ways in which we seek to embed British values.

#### **Democracy**

Elections are held for a male and female school council representative in each class. This fosters the concept of freedom of speech and group action to address need and concerns. Within their classes, pupils are able to vote to make choices brought to them by these representatives. Pupils explore the principle of democracy in age-appropriate assemblies. Older pupils run mock elections and learn about the mechanism of government in the UK, helping them to develop an understanding of the vital importance of democracy in securing a fair society where everyone has a voice.

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

The school has a positive behaviour policy and pupils clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used. The importance of laws and rules are consistently reinforced through our class-based behaviour rules, which are developed by the whole group, and through our whole school Golden rules. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws - that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Assemblies and discussions in

class focus on recognising right from wrong and visits from the Police, Fire Service and other local community representatives help to reinforce these messages.

### **Individual liberty**

Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices, within a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others through our Religious Education curriculum and PSHE lessons in particular. E-safety teaching enables them to make choices in a safe manner. Pupils use a 'Worry Box' and school councillor to share concerns about issues, alerting school leaders and initiating a productive dialogue. This has built up a strong sense of trust, because pupils know that adults take their concerns seriously, that they will listen and, where necessary, take action. We aim to ensure that pupils know their rights, but also that they are aware of the responsibilities that they entail. Teachers and other staff endeavour to set clear, consistent boundaries so that pupils can make informed choices in a safe, secure and supportive environment.

### **Mutual Respect**

Our school's ethos and behaviour policy are based on Gospel values, with the important commandment being, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. Assemblies constantly promote respect for others and the importance of good manners. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honest and open communication with others and fair play. Pupils work collaboratively and value others' opinions.' Our Mission Statement echoes this, with its emphasis on the need to value the unique contribution of each person in our school. We expect all members of the St Margaret Ward community to treat each other with respect, consideration and integrity. Pupils learn through their interactions with staff and each other, in the curriculum and assemblies that their behaviour has an impact on others. They frequently work collaboratively and are encouraged to listen to and value the opinions of others. Pupils are encouraged to understand and reach out to communities who are less fortunate than themselves and each year raise significant amounts for charity, demonstrating their respect for those who live in very different circumstances to ours. Pupils are encouraged to organise their

own fundraising events for charities that they wish to support. Fairtrade activities help our pupils understand how their lives are connected to people around the world.

### **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

As a Catholic worshipping community, pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our 'The Way, The Truth and the Life' Religious Education curriculum and the spiritual life of the school. Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. Tolerance is emphasised through our RE and PSHE curricula and our assemblies, which celebrates key dates and festivals of other faiths and gives pupils an understanding of the beliefs and customs that underpin them. Pupils benefit from the opportunity of hearing about different communities and faith traditions in the UK and the world, and we encourage parents and others to share their culture and customs with the children. We encourage pupils to understand their place within a culturally diverse society and above all to ensure that they leave St Margaret Ward with a set of values which will ensure they will contribute positively to society in the future.

### **Policy Review**

This policy will be due for review in three years, in March 2019; unless a dramatic change in current legislation requires any alternations to be made.

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