



## **TEACHING BRITISH VALUES**

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.”** The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values were reiterated in 2014.

Schools are therefore required to actively promote our “British Values”, defined as follows by the government:

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

At St Teresa's these values are reinforced regularly and promoted in the following ways:

- As a Catholic School we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils' character and moral perspective, through the teachings of the Church. We are confident that our continued focus on our Gospel Values will give our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today, and embed in them the building blocks of a future successful and productive life.
- Through our teaching in RE, PSHE, citizenship, curriculum topics and promoting 'The Common Good' we are able to make real links between the values of our pupils and the lives of others in their community, country and the world.

We value the diversity and differences of all our pupils and celebrate this through our culture, ethos, approach to lessons and our respectful relationships we promote. Commitment and celebration of our diversity makes us collectively stronger, tolerant and respectful to all.

**Through our school's Vision Statement and Beatitudes we live out our “British Values”:**

### **Democracy**

Each year the pupils decide upon their class charter and the rights and expectations associated with these; they all contribute to the drawing up of this agreement. The pupils also contribute towards their topics each term asking specific questions to be covered.

We have a School Council which meets with the Headteacher to discuss issues raised in class. The Council has its own budget and is genuinely able to effect change within the school. Every pupil on the School Council is voted in by their class.

During the year, pupils also complete questionnaires where they are able to put forward their views about the school. Each year the pupils vote for their House Captains, Sports Captains and School Council Representatives.



### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at St Teresa's.

Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of our school; these are our SAINTS values, Playground Rules and Safety Rules. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty**

At St Teresa's, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make informed choices, within a safe and supportive environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our eSafety and PSHE lessons. We teach the pupils about civil liberty and the Children's Rights Act and they are encouraged to understand the responsibilities that come with these rights.

### **Mutual Respect:**

Our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around our SAINTS Values; these are our Beatitudes, the attitudes we expect to see in our school, from all members of our community and pupils are constantly reminded about what this means in practice. This is reiterated through our collective worships.

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

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge of culture and celebrations to enhance learning across the school.

***"Keeping our children safe and ensuring schools prepare them for life in modern Britain could not be more important."*** (DfE 2014)

