

Promoting British Values at St Mary's

Since September 2014, the DfE has 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.'

British Values are:

Ofsted Version	DfE Version
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Rule of Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England• Support for equality and opportunity for all
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual Liberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

'Actively promote...' means

- Focus on, and show how, the school's work is effective in securing these values
- Challenging pupils, staff or parents who express opinions contrary to British values

At St Mary's these values are reinforced regularly and in the ways listed below.

Democracy

- We provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services.
- Pupils are taught how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- Each class decides upon their Class Charter and the rights associated with these. All children contribute to the drawing up of the charter.
- Children in each class elect their peers to represent them on the Student Council and on the Green Team.
- The Student Council meets every month to discuss school issues and a member of staff and a school governor attend these meetings.
- We encourage pupils to become involved in the decision making process and ensure they are listened to in school.
- Pupils also have an annual questionnaire through which they are able to put forward their views about our school.
- We organise visits to local council and Parliament. We also invite members of our Town Council and our local MP to come to our school to listen to speeches we have prepared on issues of importance (e.g. CAFOD 'Speak Up for the Hungry' and 'Climate Change' Campaigns).
- We organise visits from the Parliamentary Education Service to run workshops on the work of Parliament.
- We have a dedicated 'Democracy Week' during which children participate in a range of activities (e.g. mock debates; manifesto writing; voting; visits from local councillors etc.) to find out more about what democracy is and how it is relevant to us all.
- We help pupils to express their views.
- Pupils are taught how public services operate and how they are held to account.
- We model how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged.

Rule of Law

- The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well when dealing with behaviour.
- Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. These are our Classroom Behaviour Rules, Safety Rules and Playground Rules. We ensure that all school rules and expectations are clear and fair.
- We help pupils distinguish right from wrong.
- Pupils are helped to understand the law and the basis on which it is made.
- 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire Service and Lifeboat etc. help reinforce this message.
- Pupils are taught aspects of both civil and criminal law and discuss how this might differ from some religious laws.
- We develop restorative justice approaches to resolve conflicts.

Individual Liberty

- Pupils are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Pupils are encouraged to make choices, knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school, we educate pupils and provide boundaries for them to make informed choices through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education.
- Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights and personal freedoms. They are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our eSafety and PSHE and circle time lessons.
- Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, for example through choice of learning challenge or participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs.
- We model freedom of speech through pupil participation while ensuring protection of vulnerable pupils and promoting critical analysis of evidence.
- Stereotypes are challenged.
- We implement a strong anti-bullying culture.
- We follow the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Agenda.

Respect and Tolerance

- We promote respect for individual differences.
- We help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.
- Posters around school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy.
- Prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour is challenged.
- Visits to places of worship are organised. Through the RE Syllabus, "God Matters", children are taught about different faiths and differences between them are discussed.
- Pupils are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills.
- We discuss differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations, such as looked-after children or young carers.
- At St Mary's, we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.