

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



*'With Jesus, we learn together
through faith and love*

Promoting British Values at

St. Mary's

The DfE have recently reinforced the need *“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all school 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.”*

Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. At St Mary’s these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is fully embedded within our school. An obvious example is our School Council and Eco Council. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action, pupils vote in secret using ballot etc. Made up of two representatives from each class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. Pupils have open discussions in class and will discuss ideas and thoughts.

Older children often decide on charities they would like to raise money for and how they will raise the money. They work together giving each other different roles and responsibilities in raising money for charities and communicating their ideas to the whole school.

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. All children decide together their class rules at the beginning of the year. We also carry out pupil questionnaires and speak to the children concerning their opinion of different aspects of school life

We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

The 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 as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. 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.

At the start of the school year, each class discusses and sets its own Class Rules. We also have a clear set of values we follow as a school set out in our behaviour policy. Children have clear rules on how we treat and respect each other. As a school we all work together following these rules and values.

Another way we cover the rule of law is during other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in a sports lesson, for example

Individual Liberty:

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We use the language of ‘Right Choice’ and ‘Wrong Choice’ across the school beginning in Lower Early Years. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety teaching, assemblies, Citizen Day for Year Six and workshops for children.

Mutual Respect:

Part of our school ethos and Behaviour Policy has revolved around core values of our School Code such as ‘Respect’, and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Displays around the school promote respect for others and these values. This is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our Behaviour Policy with ‘Our School Code’.

Our School Code

I’m Caring	I’m Fair	I’m Respectful	I’m Responsible	I’m Trustworthy
<i>- I am kind</i>	<i>- I share</i>	<i>- I am polite</i>	<i>- I help my family</i>	<i>- I am honest</i>
<i>- I give without thinking about what I get in return</i>	<i>- I listen to everyone’s opinion</i>	<i>- I take care of myself and those around me</i>	<i>- I take care of others’ things</i>	<i>- I give anything I find into the correct authorities</i>
<i>- I watch out for others</i>	<i>- I treat all people equally</i>	<i>- I value everyone’s view</i>	<i>- I take care of my things</i>	<i>- I am a good friend</i>
<i>- I help those in need</i>	<i>- I include everyone</i>	<i>- I listen</i>	<i>- I am dependable</i>	<i>- I do what is right</i>
<i>- I think about others feelings</i>	<i>- I work to change things that are unfair</i>	<i>- I speak to others as I wish to be spoken to</i>	<i>- I am a positive leader</i>	<i>- I am dependable</i>

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

We are a Catholic school that recognises and celebrates different faiths and beliefs. This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity.

At different times within the year, our pupils learn about other faiths, cultures and their beliefs. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by teaching and learning in RE. We have a 'One World Week' annually when we learn about and celebrate different cultures and faiths. Pupils will be visiting other places of worship over the following year.