

British Values at St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Small school, big heart, learning and growing together'

**Democracy The Rule of Law Individual Liberty Mutual
Respect Tolerance**

Democracy

We uphold and explore this value by:

- Ensuring Democracy is embedded across the school.
- Ensuring school processes are democratic, for staff and pupils alike.
- **Pupils 'voices are heard, valued and have an appropriate influence on the life of the school.**

This is demonstrated and experienced through PSHE, weekly collective worship and regular "Pupil Voice" sessions to discuss elements of their school life. They are taught to listen carefully and with concern, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils have the opportunity to discuss their opinions and ideas through our School Council, which meets regularly with their link member of staff to discuss issues raised between meetings. The annual election of the School Council members are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. Once our School Council have been elected, they wear their badges with pride and their pictures are displayed on our School Council display to show all children who they can go to if they have points they would like to raise in our School Council meetings. Pupils have opportunities explore democracy in the school setting, reflecting on what makes something fair.

- **Teachers are consulted and included in the decision-making process.** Staff are consulted on important decisions such the School Vision and Values, curriculum redevelopment, appraisal systems, well- being measures.

The Rule of Law

We uphold and explore this value by:

Laws such as those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced through the curriculum and when dealing with behaviour in school.

- **Our school has its own set of rules, which are deeply embedded in our work every day and link to our whole school behaviour system used by all members of staff.** They are displayed in each classroom as a point of reference and revisited annually through whole school assemblies. Each class discusses the school rules at the start of the academic year so that they are clearly understood by all. The children understand that the rules are necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.
- **Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us.** the responsibilities that this involves as a British Citizen and the consequences that are faced when laws are broken.

Following the restrictions as a result of the pandemic visits in a variety of ways from the emergency services such as the police and fire services have been suspended. It is planned to begin these experiences as soon as is safe and practical.

Individual Liberty

Across all phases of schooling, pupils are given opportunities to make choices and respect the choices of others. They are actively encouraged to make their own choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide rules, expectations and boundaries for our pupils to make choices, within an empowering education,

Whether it be through choice of EYFS provision areas, learning challenges in the classroom, child-led research topics, homework activities, lunch time activities or participation in our extra-curricular clubs, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

- Younger pupils are given the opportunity to be aware of the importance of taking responsibility for their choices.
- Older pupils are given the opportunity to explore and consider the balance between rights, responsibilities, diversity and belonging that makes up daily life in a diverse country like Britain.
- Older pupils learn about the historical circumstances that led to the value of individual liberty and the liberal state.

Mutual Respect

St. Mary's Primary School promotes excellence in a family atmosphere and ensures each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. The need for mutual respect is embedded throughout the school. All members of the school community treat each other with respect. Pupils and adults pride themselves on their strong relationships and respect and help each other in and around the school.

- All staff model respectful behaviour of the school environment. The environment is warm and welcoming, a source of pride for all members of the school community.
- All staff model respectful behaviour towards each other, pupils and parents.
- Expectations for all pupils are extremely high when it comes to respect; they are respectful and polite to each other, all adults and the school environment.
- We strive to enhance our pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies, discussions and our curriculum, including learning in the RE and PSHE curriculum support our children's learning of diversity and are embedded in the school year. Within school, members of different faiths or religions are also encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within class and the school. This includes parents or members of the local community coming in for discussions or workshops, as well as pupils sharing experiences they have had at home during our weekly celebration assemblies.

Tolerance

ensures tolerance of those who have different faiths and beliefs. St. Mary's Primary School enhances pupils understanding of tolerance of different faiths and beliefs through religious education studies, PSHE work, topic studies, school visits to places of worship and welcoming visitors from other cultures to educate the children about their culture and celebrate their traditions. Through this our pupils gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society.

- Younger pupils will learn about the notion of tolerance first in terms of interpersonal behaviour in the classroom, which is part of learning to live with each other. Asking questions such as ' Is it fair? What should we do when things are not fair? Help to explore this.
- Younger pupils are given opportunities to reflect on how they function harmoniously as a group, thinking about cooperation, sharing and being kind and generous to one another.
- Older pupils consider the value of tolerance as given by the state to groups, and as a factor of interpersonal relationships, relating this to the questions about human rights and freedoms.
- Older pupils consider the value and limits of tolerance and consider its relationship to acceptance, mutual understanding, warmth and love.
- Curriculum areas which offer the opportunity to learn about and explore the value of tolerance, especially RE, History, PE and PSHE are supported and celebrated around the school.