



British Values Policy



'With Jesus we can achieve what we dream and believe'

St. Michael's Catholic Primary School understands the importance of supporting pupils to develop the skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in, and contribute positively to, life in modern Britain.

This policy sets out the framework in which the school will ensure that it actively promotes the fundamental British values of:

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

These values are officially taught throughout our carefully designed curriculum; however, the school recognises the importance of integrating the teaching of these values throughout all aspects of pupils' educational life, including through:

- *Assemblies*
- *Extra-curricular activities*
- *Picture News*
- *No Outsiders*
- *Wider opportunities, e.g. educational visits and work experience*
- *Literature available at the school*
- *The promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding*

The school takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through daily collective worship and whole school systems and structures such as electing and running a successful School Council. We also actively promote British values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring and discussing these values.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- *Equality Act 2010*
- *Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015*
- *Ofsted (2023) 'Schools inspection handbook'*
- *DfE (2014) 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools'*

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- *Behaviour Policy*
- *Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy*
- *Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy*
- *Disciplinary Policy and Procedure*
- *Prevent Duty Policy*

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- *The overall implementation of this policy*
- *Ensuring that the British values are upheld throughout the school*
- *Holding executive leaders to account for their performance regarding British values*

The headteacher is responsible for:

- *Ensuring that all staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy*
- *Ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods. Disciplining staff who do not uphold British values, in line with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure*

Staff are responsible for:

- *Modelling behaviour that respects and adheres to the fundamental British values*
- *Ensuring that pupils feel as though their views count and supporting them to develop positive self-esteem*
- *Implementing and enforcing this policy and other policies and procedures that reinforce the British values, e.g. the Behaviour Policy*

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- *Ensuring that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values*
- *Ensuring that teaching methods are designed to bolster pupils' self-esteem and that all pupils are given the opportunity to speak and offer their views*
- *Ensuring that lessons discuss, pull examples from and are respectful of a diverse array of cultures*

Pupils are responsible for:

- *Treating each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy*

3. Aims and objectives

Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our pupils have:

- *An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process*
- *An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety*
- *An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence*
- *An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law*
- *An acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour*
- *An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination*

4. Democracy

Pupils will be taught, in an age-appropriate way, the advantages and disadvantages of democracy, as well as how democracy works in the UK.

Staff will ensure that pupils feel as though their views and opinions matter, and will be given opportunities to talk about their feelings, e.g. through pastoral support, and the RSHE and PSHE curriculums.

Pupils will also have numerous opportunities to have their views about the school and their education heard, including through:

- *Pupil voice*
- *The school council*
- *Pupil questionnaires*

Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

At St. Michael's we base everything we do around our Christian and Mission Values. Through headteacher assemblies and ongoing challenges set for pupils, we have a regular focus on our school values, e.g. Joy and Happiness. During the week children, children are rewarded for living out our mission values through our reward system, for example being 'spotted' for an act of kindness.

5. The rule of law

Our school ethos and school Mission Values further support our pupils in developing a strong sense of moral responsibility and the importance of knowing right from wrong.

The school has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect the school, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. 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 etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. Our annual 'Aspire and Achieve' week also provides opportunities for children to meet different professionals who reinforce these key safety messages.

Pupils will also be taught to understand the importance of their own behaviour, the impact that their behaviour has on others, and the consequences of their behaviour, through the implementation and enforcement of the school Behaviour Policy, which is based around the work of Paul Dix. Our school rules are fully embedded across the school – Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe – and are referenced during any restorative practice conversations which take place. To encourage and promote good behaviour, attitude and work, we have devised a bespoke St. Michael's reward system – Above and Beyond - which is consistently followed throughout the school.

6. Individual liberty

A safe and supportive environment will be fostered throughout the school, where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, e.g. regarding their extra-curricular opportunities.

Pupils will always have the freedom to base their choices on their interests. As a school we provide boundaries for our children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and planned curriculum, for example through our e-Safety teaching and through bespoke support from our highly-skilled pastoral team.

7. Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The school will ensure that respect for all individuals, regardless of their protected characteristics and/or backgrounds, is promoted throughout the school. Pupils will be taught about the importance of diversity in British society, and will learn about different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds throughout the curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy are based around core Christian values such as 'respect' and 'responsibility' and these values determine how we live as a community at St. Michael's Catholic Primary School. Collective Worship is based on 'Christian Values for Life' which are central to how we expect everyone to go about their life at our school.

Staff members will ensure that they always treat everyone, with respect, and will ensure that pupils learn to treat each other and all members of staff with respect as well. This is reinforced through the school's Behaviour Policy which will sanction disrespectful behaviour and reinforce positive and respectful behaviour.

The school acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity. Throughout the year, assemblies will be held focussing on bullying, with reference to prejudice-based bullying, and discussion with pupils will be encouraged. Tolerance of those of different faiths is also achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in our culturally diverse local community, which is made up of a range of faiths, cultures and nationalities. Collective Worship and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. The school will encourage pupils of all faiths and religions to share their knowledge and experiences with their peers, as freely as they feel comfortable to, to enhance their learning.

8. Challenging views that go against British values

The school openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and pupils, that goes against British values.

The school does not tolerate discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour, and any pupils displaying this behaviour will be disciplined in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Referrals regarding pupils that may be at risk of radicalisation will be made in accordance with the school's Prevent Duty Policy.

9. Staff training

Members of staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction and through additional training.

Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the values in this policy.