

## **British Values in our School Curriculum**

The Department for Education (2014) stated that there is a 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.”*

The Government originally set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. These values fall into the following broad areas:

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

At St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School we base our school values on the teachings of the Catholic Church and the promotion of Gospel values which are important to every aspect of the life of the school. This focus on the Gospel values gives our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today leading a successful and productive life. These values are promoted in school through our Jesuit Virtues, Rights Respecting Schools, PSHE and RE lessons and our School Council.

Our Gospel values are rooted in the Beatitudes, the proclamation of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount: ‘Blessed are...’ Whilst not definitive, the core values based on the Beatitudes are:

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”*

Value: **Dignity and Compassion**

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”*

Value: **Faithfulness and Integrity**

*“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”*

Value: **Humility and Gentleness**

*“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”*

Value: **Forgiveness and Mercy**

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God”*

Value: **Purity and Holiness**

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God”*

Value: **Tolerance and Peace**

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven”*

Value: **Service and Sacrifice**

## **Promoting British Values at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School**

### **Rights Respecting Schools**

At St John the Baptist School, we promote fundamental British values through our ethos, the curriculum, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and through our work as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. We reinforce and promote British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs as demonstrated below:

#### **Democracy**

UNCRC

Article 12 Every child has the right to be heard

Article 2 Every child has the right to be treated equally and with respect

At St John the Baptist School we provide children with the skills and opportunities to make informed decisions to elect members as class councillors. They share their class' views on different topics or issues at the half-termly School Council meetings where can make a real difference as they can express their views and are listened to. We also include in the curriculum information on the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain.

#### **The Rule of Law**

UNCRC

Article 19 Every child has the right to be protected from harm

Article 1 Every child has the right to be treated equally and with respect

Article 29 Every child has the right to an education

At St. John the Baptist School we encourage children from an early age to contribute to their classroom rules and help pupils to distinguish right from wrong. We ensure school rules, playground rules, E-safety rules and dinner rules are clear and fair and that children understand the reasons for having them. Our children learn that living under the rule of law protects individuals and they develop approaches focused on reconciliation and justice to resolve conflicts. We teach children aspects of both civil and criminal law and discuss how this might differ from some religious laws and how there are consequences when laws are broken. Our home/school agreement sets out the contract between the school, the child and their parents. PSHE/Circle time and RE lessons are used as an opportunity to discuss difficult situations that benefit from whole class discussion. Keeping safe when using the internet is regularly discussed with children in computing lessons and in assemblies. All members of the school community sign our Acceptable Use Policy and pledge to use the internet safely. The school has good links with the police who visit and help to reinforce the Rule of Law and how to keep safe.

#### **Individual Liberty**

UNCRC

Article 19 Every child has the right to be protected from harm

Article 12 Every child has the right to be heard

Article 2 Every child has the right to be treated equally and with respect

At St. John the Baptist School we support pupils to develop their self-esteem and self-confidence by encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights. Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We have a strong anti-bullying culture, including the KiVa programme, which is explained in our Anti-Bullying and Behaviour policies. Our Ten Ten

PSHE and Life to the Full RSHE and E-Safety lessons also cover how to make choices and understand their rights within a safe and caring environment.

### **Mutual respect**

UNCRC

Article 2 Every child has the right to be treated equally and with respect

Article 29 Every child has the right to an education

At St. John the Baptist School we believe everyone should be treated with respect and kindness, from the youngest member of our school to the oldest. This is an important part of our Catholic faith and is at the heart of our learning culture. We teach children to live as Jesus would have and to know that God loves us all equally. There are many opportunities to develop SMSVC across the curriculum for example through R.E., PSHE, PE, art, music, history, geography, science and English. Children are encouraged to work in collaboration as much as possible.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

UNCRC

Article 2 Every child has the right to be treated equally and with respect

Article 14 Every child has the right to practice their own religion

Article 30 Every child has the right to practice their own culture

At St. John the Baptist School we help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life through the curriculum, especially during RE lessons and our Ten Ten Life to the Full PSHE lessons. We teach about other cultures and religions and this is a focus during our termly Mission Weeks. Children also visit places of worship that are important to different faiths and respect the views of the communities within these settings. Our Rights Respecting School initiative reinforces our commitment towards a tolerant society.

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary is committed to serving its community and surrounding areas. We recognise the multicultural, multi-faith nature of the United Kingdom and understand the crucial role our schools play in promoting these values. We are a school for all. This statement outlines the key British values we actively promote.

### Democracy

Children are involved in Democratic processes e.g. voting for school councillors and shared rewards. The school council is led by Mrs Dixon. They are involved in decision making across school including learning, as well as making daily decisions about school life. They report back to each class and provide the minutes of their meetings to the Headteacher.

### Individual Liberty

Children across school have a range of responsibilities including class based and whole school. Key stage 2 have a range of jobs e.g. House Captains, Lunchtime Helpers, Peer Mediators, Playground Pals and hall monitors.

Within school, children are encouraged to make choices knowing they are in a safe environment. They also are involved in analysing risk in a variety of situations.

The aims and ethos of the school support that we provide a leaning environment that will equip children for secondary school, the wider society and life.

### Respect

Our PSHE (Ten Ten Life to the Full) / SMSC/Virtues curriculum is based around respect for each other and being responsible citizens. Respect is embedded in our school and classroom rules.

Gospel values support and are promoted in partnership with British values. These are delivered to the children in assembly and example and shared with parents through the weekly newsletter.

### Tolerance

We know that every person is different and that we can learn from each other's differences and develop because of this.

Our RE curriculum is based on our Catholic faith. However, we recognise that in our society all faiths are present and equally valued. Therefore, we learn about every faith community so that we can all understand each other's beliefs. We have children and staff from different faiths and encourage them to regularly share their beliefs with us.

### The Rule of Law

We know that rules and laws keep us safe. We know that school needs rule just like our society and world needs rules to follow. We have school rules that are delivered to the whole school by the Rights Respecting School Ambassadors. Each class creates and follows their class charter which are age and stage appropriate. We have links with our local community police who come and talk to us about being safe.

Keeping safe—we know what it means to be and to feel safe and we learn the rules about being safe in different situations e.g. fire safety, water safety and e safety.

We know that adults and children all have to follow rules and laws and these are created in our government who run our country for our Royal family. We know that every action, good or bad, has a consequence and this is embedded as part of school policies and rules.