

Our Lady Star of the Sea

British Values Statement

The DfE have 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.*”

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values were reiterated in 2014. At Our Lady's these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

Democracy is an important value at our school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Student and Class Councils. All classes conduct a Class Council on a regular basis which enables all children to have a voice as their thoughts and opinions are heard. Minutes are taken which enable these ideas to be shared further. Many daily concerns are problem-solved through this body. Every year, classes elect two representatives to stand on the Student Council. This is a formal process as children create and perform speeches which help their peers to decide who would best represent their needs. The Student Council consists of 14 children and two key staff members. It meets on a monthly basis to share ideas, problem-solve and to provide a key leadership role. The Student Council decides on annual priorities which form part of the school development plan. Over the past four years this has helped the children to develop their outside playing and learning area. The matters discussed are shared through minutes taken and a brief overview can be found on the school website. Throughout the curriculum all opportunities to discuss the ideals of democracy are exploited and during Year 5 children look at the organisation of the British Parliament.

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. In certain year groups this is taught as part of the curriculum.

Our school behaviour policy is central to school life and is based on everyone taking responsibility for their thoughts, words and actions. We place Christ at the centre of all that we think, say and do and therefore we attempt to follow in His footsteps. In respecting each person's dignity, we constantly aspire to bring our mission statement to life allowing each person we meet to feel 'precious in the eyes of the Lord'. All learning and behaviour therefore becomes the responsibility of the individual which enables a consistent dialogue of support, encouragement and forgiveness to be embedded across daily school life.

Individual Liberty

Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices, within a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others through our Religious Education curriculum and HRSE lessons in particular. Online safety teaching provides opportunities for children to develop their understanding that technology is a powerful tool which has become integral to our daily lives. However, with this power comes great responsibility and therefore how we use this technology must ensure our own and the safety of others. Throughout the year, at key points, themed Online safety days expand this though support and challenge.

Mutual Respect

At Our Lady's central to everything we do is Christ. We all seek to become human beings who value the greater good, loving ourselves, our neighbours and Christ. All our policies are rooted in Gospel values, with the important commandment being, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. Assemblies constantly promote respect for others and the importance of good manners and valuing the dignity of ourselves and others. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honest and open communication with others and fair play. The message that every child is 'created in the image of God' is constantly reinforced and permeates all aspects of life at Our Lady's. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. Pupils work collaboratively and value others' opinions. Mutual respect is at the heart of our values.

Tolerance of those of 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 in our local community which is by large white British. Collective Worship and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying take place regularly and are supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Our Religious Education curriculum provides pupils with a deep understanding of their own faith as well as awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as a basis for understanding and respecting them. We use opportunities such as the Olympics and World Cup to study and learn about life and culture in other countries. We study other world faiths and learn about their customs, practises and celebrations.

As a Catholic School we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils' character and moral perspective, through the teachings of the Church. We are confident that our continued focus on the Gospel Values will give our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today, and embed in them the building blocks of a future successful and productive life. Essentially, we aspire to help the children

to become well-rounded human beings who can live in harmony with each other. Through our RE, HRSE, SEAL, Geography and promoting The Common Good we are able to make real links between the values of our pupils and the lives of others in their community, country and the world in general. Through our Curriculum we teach about democracy, civic responsibility, rules and laws, the monarchy, equality, values and virtues, environmental awareness and understanding of other faiths.