



St Mary's CE Primary School



British Values Statement

At St Mary's CE Primary School, its Breakfast and After School Clubs, all policies and procedures reflect the caring Christian family ethos of the school and its Mission Statement and Values – Faith, Family, Future - Building a positive future for all, as part of God's loving family. St Mary's is a Unicef Rights Respecting School and its Whole School Charter is based on the school values and the UN convention of the rights of the child.

St Mary's School prides itself in providing equal opportunities for all members of its family regardless of disability, religion, sexual orientation, culture, gender, ethnic origin, colour or age. All pupils have access to the English curriculum, and the right to a learning environment which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

The Department for Education states 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 Department for Education defines British Values as follows:

- Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
- Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Support for equality of opportunity for all
- Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

Our school reflects British values in all that we do. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. This is demonstrated by our achievement of the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award and our continued work as a Right Respecting School.

At St Mary's, we actively promote British values through our status as a Rights Respecting School and in the following ways:

Democracy

- Children are encouraged to debate topics of interest, express their views and make a meaningful contribution to the running of the school on matters that directly involve pupils.
- Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through elected Values Ambassadors, Learning Circles and pupil questionnaires.
- The principle of democracy is explored in the curriculum as well as during assemblies and special days. Our KS2 pupils participate in assemblies and workshops e.g. using loaned Parliament artefact box.
- Values Ambassadors also work in conjunction with our local MP on local matters.
- Our Behaviour and Safety policy is based on School Values and a Whole School Charter decided upon by pupils and the school community
- St Mary's pupils have had active involvement in the selection processes of new staff.

Rule of law

- Our school follows rules related to our school values, which are integral to our learning and actions every day.
- School rules and expectations are clear, fair and regularly promoted.
- Pupils are always helped to distinguish right from wrong, in the classroom, during assemblies and on the playground.
- All staff are trained in Team Teach techniques to listen pupils when situations require resolution. This has been modelled so effectively by staff that pupils now use these techniques when dealing with issues between themselves.
- The Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies set out a zero tolerance baseline for any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to pupils, staff and parents and carers.
- Pupils and parents agree to abide by the school Values by signing up to the Working Together in Partnership Agreement

Equality of Opportunity

- All pupils, regardless of SEND, or any protected characteristic have access to the full curriculum and a range of extra-curricular activities

- Opportunities to develop pupil understanding of equality is embedded throughout the curriculum e.g. through debate in any subject, PSHE, RE.
- Provision mapping and pupil progress meetings focus on the needs of the individual child and their own personal next steps, taking account of all barriers to learning

Individual liberty

- The school has achieved the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award
- Within school, pupils are actively encouraged, and given the freedom to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. e.g. taking on leadership roles, aiming for personal bests in their learning, organising fund raising events
- Pupils are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence through the work of our class teachers, TAs, Emotional Literacy Support Assistant and Place2Be counsellor
- Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and our pastoral support reinforces the importance of making the right choices.
- Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-safety teaching and PSHE lessons.
- Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged. A strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed. The school also operates a robust system of logging incidents electronically on CPOMS. Incidents are reported to the Governing Body.
- Pupils have key roles and responsibilities in school e.g. Year 6 Buddies for Reception children, Year 5 Buddies for Year 1 children, buddies for vulnerable children, year 5/6 responsibilities, Play Leaders, older pupils running clubs for younger children.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- Respect is one of the core values of our school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone, adults and children.
- Pupils respect each other and recommend each other to receive certificates and Dojo points
- Pupils are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life through PSHE and RE
- Staff and pupils are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.

FAITH FAMILY FUTURE

Building a positive future for all, as part of God's loving family

- Links and visits are promoted with local faith communities and places of worship. e.g. Members of different faiths or religions are invited to school to share their knowledge and enhance learning within assemblies and in class.
- Through the PSHE and RE curriculums pupils are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations.
- Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudiced-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE.

This statement of British Values is updated annually and shared with the school community including the Governing Body, Parents (through the school website), staff and pupils through our work as a Rights Respecting School.

November 2025