

St Anne's Catholic Primary School

British Values Statement Spring 2018



The Department for Education (DfE) have emphasised 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.” Here at St Anne’s Catholic Primary School, these core British values are of paramount importance in order to provide a strong cornerstone through which our pupils can grow and develop into well-informed, tolerate and active members of our society. Below, each British value is outlined with details on how it promoted within our school:

Democracy:

St Anne’s is dedicated to embedding democracy at our school as it provides a solid foundation for the children to grow into active members of our democratic society. Each school year begins with the pupils of St Anne’s creating their own class charters, discussing their opinions and views on how their class should be to promote their own learning and achievement. Additionally, our pupils are actively encouraged to make their voices heard through our Student Council, who are made up of our Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors, who meet and discuss issues that are raised throughout our school each week. Our Student Council members are elected by the pupils of each class using a voting system; reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard; this is especially encouraged during Circle Times and embedded through our 5Rs. Finally, our pupils have the chance to put forward their views about our school through regular questionnaires.

The Rule of Law:

In order to help our pupils prepare for their roles in society means that it is important that they have a developed understanding of the importance of laws whether it are those that govern the class, the school or the country. These laws are consistently reinforced in our School to ensure a deeper understanding and respect of the Rule of Law. Our school uses the 5Rs (Respect/Reflect, Ready, Resilience, Resourcefulness & Responsibility) which are deeply embedded in our work every day in order to help our pupils follow our school rules and behaviour system – Good to be Green. As mentioned above, each class also discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood by all and seen to be 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 and the consequences when laws are broken. This message is reinforced by regular visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service.

Individual Liberty:

At St Anne's Catholic Primary School, pupils are actively encouraged to make their own choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety, RE and PSHE lessons. Our curriculum promotes independent learning, aiming to empower and provide many opportunities for children to exercise choice. Developing an understanding of justice and fairness is a foundation block of our school, our focus weeks such as Anti-Bullying & participation in the Respect Programme help to provide interactive learning through which the pupils can build a solid comprehension of their choices in the community.

Mutual Respect:

Respect is one of our school's 5Rs and it is deeply embedded in all that we do at the school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. As a result, the pupils at St Anne's learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others around them. Our Catholic ethos is a reflection of this, as well as the teachings of Jesus, encouraging that we love one another as ourselves and this core value underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom.

Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs:

In order for our school to 'Love and Learn' in harmony with Christ', it is important for St Anne's pupils to advance their understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Using our 5Rs as a basis, our school uses assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying to deepen knowledge and dispel misunderstandings about different faiths, beliefs and traditions. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school and they enjoy this throughout the year and especially during our very popular annual multi-cultural week. We value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all pupils and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate these. This approach has been enriching for all parties as it teaches tolerance and respect for the differences in our community and the wider world.