



British Values

The DfE has recently 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 have been reiterated in 2014.

At St Mary’s our values underpin the whole of our school community. Our values inform our schools’ vision, aims and ethos, the design of our curriculum, all policies, planning and the school’s management and governance. Through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and distinctively Christian ethos, we promote and reinforce the British Values of **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty** and **mutual respect** and **tolerance of those with different faiths**.

We ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of the school. Our daily collective worship focusses on our Value of the month. A variety of curriculum areas provide vehicles for furthering understanding of these concepts and in particular, our RE and PSHE lessons provide excellent opportunities to deepen and develop understanding. As part of our Values Education children embrace these concepts with enthusiasm and demonstrate a good understanding of their application to their own lives.

St Mary’s school is a happy and safe place for all where we recognise that we are all equal, all different and all unique. Our strong rooted values-based education and understanding gives us all an excellent platform for embracing, valuing and respecting difference. We value and celebrate the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all in our schools and local village communities and the global village in which we all live. We are fortunate to be a central part of our local villages’ communities and are involved in many village events and have good links with both the village churches and community groups. However we also make considerable efforts to ensure children are aware of the rich diversity of life in modern Britain and have exposure to a wide experience beyond their local community during which these concepts are shown. For example children participate in class and whole school events to mark celebrations and festivals of different faiths and cultures, sporting events, a range of educational and enrichment visits.

The Values we have chosen to focus on in our school are all underpinned by Christian Values and British Values and are interwoven with one another.

Cycle 1		Cycle 2	
Respect (Reverence)	Caring (Friendship/Thoughtfulness)	Hope	Love
Co-operation	Joy	Trust (and Loyalty)	Unity (Koinonia)
Peace	Appreciation (Thankfulness/Simplicity)	Compassion (and Forgiveness)	Understanding (Wisdom)
Equality (Justice)	Honesty	Commitment	Humility (Service)
Patience	Faith	Responsibility (and Freedom)	Courage
Perseverance (Endurance)		Quality (Creation)	

Selected values are taught in Acorn Nursery to reflect their age and development these include, friendship, sharing, love, caring, respect and happiness.

Rule of Law

- Pupil interviews and surveys on behaviour
- Parent/carers questionnaires relating to behaviour and safety
- School expectations negotiated with the children
- Class expectations negotiated with the children
- Collective worship with a focus linked to the law
- School Behaviour policy based on values
- Regular opportunities to reflect learning and behaviour
- Pupil interviews on behaviour – school council

British Values at St Mary's C of E VA Lower School



Responsibility and Liberty

- Commendation (celebration) assembly – linked to values
- Assemblies with a focus link – values
- Understanding responsibility in school in terms of behaviour and learning attitude.
- Pupils encouraged to make choices in a safe and supportive environment
- School values displayed
- Reflection opportunities in worship and class
- Home/School agreements
- E-safety
- Community links (road safety, litter pick)

Tolerance

- Values education
- PSHE/RE Curriculum
- Equalities policies
- Cultural celebrations and festival celebrations
- Reflection time
- Collective worship
- Faith stories
- Visits to different churches
- Visitors from different churches
- Visits to different places of worship
- Visitors from different faiths

Democracy

- School council/pupil voice
- Children involved in Democratic processes: e.g. school council representatives, school/class expectations
- Democracy linked assemblies
- Pupils involved in recruitment of staff

Mutual Respect

- RE Curriculum
- Collective worship
- Inclusive ethos
- Positive relationships encourage and modelled
- E-safety
- Anti-bullying week
- School Council
- Competitive sports and festivals
- Supporting charity days
- Lent Appeal
- Visitors into assembly