



St Lewis' Catholic Primary School

British Values Statement

Mission Statement

To belong to our school community, to believe in ourselves and Jesus and to become all you are meant to be, following the footsteps of Christ

As a Catholic school our ethos is to uphold the values of the Gospel: respect for the life and dignity of each individual; trust in God; honesty; compassion; forgiveness; mercy; community; servant leadership; equality; simplicity; justice and peace. These values are embedded in all that we teach and are promoted in all of our interactions with others in the school and the wider community.

We fully recognise and embrace the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom and are committed to ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

St Lewis' has a clear Equality policy which aims to prevent discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status or similar. St Lewis' also seeks to lay the foundations for our pupils' future lives, beyond the formal curriculum, preparing them for the diverse and dynamic society in which they will live and work. An understanding of British values is a critical part of this education.

The Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 'Prevent' strategy and the Department for Education has reinforced the need *'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values'*. Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to these values, which are:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Many of these values are embedded within our Catholic Ethos and Mission, but in addition St Lewis' uses strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure pupils' understanding of the wider implications of British values. The examples that follow show some of the ways in which St. Lewis' seeks to embed British values.

Democracy

Elections are held for a male and female school council representative in each class. This fosters the concept of freedom of speech and group action to address need and concerns. Within their classes, pupils are able to vote to make choices brought to them by these representatives. Pupils are also able to make their views known via questionnaires and interviews.

Pupils explore the principle of democracy in age-appropriate assemblies and within classroom discussions and Student Council opportunities.

The Rule of Law

The school has a clear behaviour management policy and high standards of behaviour of both pupils and staff are expected by the Governing Body. The rights and responsibilities of every pupil are emphasised through our class-based behaviour rules, which are developed by the whole group, and through the use Restorative Approaches to more serious issues, which focus on the harm that has been done and on how it might be mended. Our RE, SMSC and PSHE curricular recognize and underline the importance of the ideas, feelings and needs of others. Assemblies emphasise that we are all equal under the law and that it is not only wrong, but illegal to discriminate against others on the basis of characteristics such as disability, gender, race or faith. Regular visits from authorities such as the Fire Service help to reinforce the message that our laws are for the protection of all.

We aim to ensure that our pupils have the knowledge and confidence to withstand attempts to radicalise them by alerting them to the intolerance that is inherent in all extremist viewpoints.

Individual liberty

Pupils at St. Lewis' are encouraged to know and understand their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, e.g. through our E-Safety policy, EPR AND PSHE curricula, circle times and assemblies. Pupils are encouraged to exercise their right to free speech by articulating their views to their School Council Representatives. They also use the 'Worry Box' to share concerns about issues, alerting school leaders and initiating a productive dialogue. This has built up a strong sense of trust, because pupils know that adults take their concerns seriously, that they will listen and, where necessary, take action.

We aim to ensure that pupils know their rights, but also that they are aware of the responsibilities that they entail. Teachers and other staff endeavour to set clear, consistent boundaries so that pupils can make informed choices in a safe, secure and supportive environment. St. Lewis' has clear Anti-bullying and Behaviour Management policies that are openly shared with every member of our community.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our faith: Jesus said, '*You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*' Our Mission Statement echoes this, with its emphasis on the need to value the unique contribution of each person in our school. We expect all members of the St. Lewis' community to treat each other with respect, consideration and integrity. Pupils learn through their interactions with staff and each other, in the curriculum and assemblies that their behaviour has an impact on others. They frequently work collaboratively and are encouraged to listen to and value the opinions of others.

Pupils are encouraged to understand and reach out to communities who are less fortunate than themselves and each year raise significant amounts for charity, demonstrating their respect for those who live in very different circumstances to ours.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Although we are a faith school, we welcome pupils from other faiths or none. Other faiths are explored and understood through our use of the Come and See Religious Education programme which ensures a breadth of understanding into other faiths across year groups. Tolerance is emphasised through our RE and PSHE curricula and our assemblies programme.

Pupils benefit from the opportunity of hearing about different communities and faith traditions in the UK and the world, and we encourage parents and others to share their culture and customs with the children.

We encourage pupils to understand their place within a culturally diverse society and above all to ensure that they leave St. Lewis' with a set of values which will ensure they will contribute positively to society in the future.