

## **Statement of British Values**

### **Background**

The Department for Education has introduced a statutory duty for schools to promote British Values more actively from September 2014, and to ensure they are taught in schools.

The government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. The five key British Values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

### **School Philosophy**

In accordance with the school Mission Statement, St Teresa's is a school where children, staff and governors are:

***“ A welcoming family of God, growing and achieving together , with Jesus at our side”***

This philosophy permeates all aspects of school life. As such, we believe that the values of democracy, rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance are explicit and implicit in the Christian teaching and values of this school. As such, these five key values have long been embedded in the philosophy and life of St Teresa's.

### **Securing British Values**

St Teresa's Primary School uses strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure British values for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways in which we seek to instil these.

### **Democracy**

Democracy plays a key role within the day to day life of our school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our proactive school. At St Teresa's, all class representatives are voted on by their class peers. The election process is explained in detail and the vote day takes the format of an election.

Our pupils also evaluate Collective Worship and have influence on whole school practice. Individual pupils also have the opportunity to put themselves forward for roles and responsibilities such as being a playground buddy.

### **The rule of law**

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses and sets its own Class Rules, a set of principles 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.

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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- during Religious Education, when reflecting upon rules for particular faiths
- during other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in a sports lesson, for example

### **Individual liberty**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school 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 and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

### **Mutual respect**

Respect for each other, for our school and to others in our community is an integral part of our school ethos and Behaviour Policy. Pupils see staff model this by treating each other with respect and courtesy. We promote this in the way our children interact with each other in their classes and during social times. Mutual respect and fair play is also discussed and promoted within sports based activities.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

The Christian faith is fundamental to life at St Teresa's. We also understand and celebrate the diversity of the faith community in which we live. Lessons, assemblies and focus weeks encourage this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Strong links have been made with some faith groups and are regular and much welcomed visitors to the school. Children also visit places of worship.

*The British values listed above are incorporated into the school's ethos and opportunities to promote them have been mapped across the curriculum.*