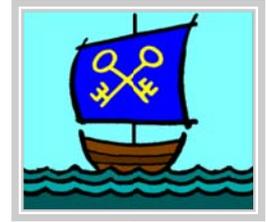


## **ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **STATEMENT ON BRITISH VALUES**



The DfE have 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 by the Prime Minister this year.

At St Peter's Catholic Primary School we define these British values as:

- Democracy - the respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process.
- The rule of law – the respect for the basis on which law is made and applies in England.
- Support for equality of opportunity for all.
- Individual liberty – support and respect for the liberties of all within the law.
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

At St Peter's Catholic Primary School we actively promote values and ethics that shape our pupils' characters and moral perspectives. Everything we do at the school is underpinned by our school's Mission Statement. In addition we have 6 Learning Skills that we use to enhance our teaching of the curriculum, these are –

- Respect
- Perseverance
- Co-operation
- Communication
- Messenger for God
- Questioning

#### **Democracy**

Democracy underpins the values of the school. All children are treated fairly and have an equal right to express their views and be listened to. Pupil Voice is an important aspect of our provision, ensuring children have the opportunity to be heard through the School Council and during class time. Members of this group are democratically elected by their class peers providing experience in democratic elections. The children are involved in choosing how they study their topics and what aspects they learn about and then self-evaluate their learning journeys. Children are also encouraged to engage in the learning process by developing independence, voicing opinions and ideas, making choices and responding to teachers marking. Staff regularly discuss learning journeys with the children so that they have a say in their learning.

#### **The Rule of Law**

Children are clear about their rights and the rights of others. We ensure children are able to distinguish right from wrong in a wide range of situations both in the school and the community. Children 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. Visits from authorities such as the police and other organisations are regular parts of our PSHE provision and help to reinforce this message.

## **Individual Liberty**

Within the school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school our aim is to empower children to make safe choices through the provision of boundaries and a safe environment. Children 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 and PSHE lessons, anti-bullying week etc.

## **Mutual Respect**

Our aims and values include the importance of respect which is clearly demonstrated throughout the school. School charters, discussions and assemblies promote and explore respect for self and others which is reinforced in our Behaviour Policy. Children thoroughly enjoy lessons and are active learners who display very good behaviour because they understand the right of all children to learn and thrive in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Children are expected to treat the views and opinions of others with respect even if they differ from their own. Respect is a key learning skill with specific lessons taught on the development of respect.

## **Tolerance of those with different faiths or beliefs**

As a Catholic school, all staff are committed to developing the language children need to express their views, emotions and feelings so they are able to negotiate and resolve disagreements peacefully. We actively seek opportunities to enhance children's understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society by providing real life experiences in their learning journey, for example, visiting shops, restaurants, the local Church, role play and class based activities. Through assemblies, RE lessons, Understanding the World activities and discussions involving prejudices and prejudiced based bullying, children are supported in their learning about diversity, respect and tolerance.

As a result of our school promoting fundamental British values we believe the children will gain –

- An understanding of how people can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individuals and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- An understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- An acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour;
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

St Peter's Catholic Primary School will teach British Values as part of the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural curriculum and this will be monitored annually during the Summer term.