



St Mary's CE Primary School

'Nurturing Success'

Promoting British Values at St Mary's CE Primary School

The Department for Education states that there is a 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 sets out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

At St Mary's CE Primary, we are committed to *"nurturing success"* in every child and every adult in the school community. Our ethos as a school is to provide the highest quality education for all of our pupils in a safe and friendly school community underpinned by Christian values. This ethos and the six Christian values chosen by the school align with the British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Our values are:

Respect – recognising that we are all individual; celebrating our differences and accepting that we will not always agree with each other but showing respect towards each other none the less

Friendship – being a welcoming, caring and inclusive community in which we can all feel valued and grow in confidence

Trust – speaking honestly; listening carefully and openly; promoting strong relationships of trust and loyalty

Perseverance – working hard with determination and resilience, even when faced with difficult challenges; reflecting on our shortcomings and disappointments honestly

Wisdom – developing a lifelong love of learning; providing an inspiring and creative curriculum both within and beyond lessons; understanding that true wisdom is far more than knowledge of facts alone

Hope – preparing for an unknown future with optimism and energy; always seeking to improve

As a school, we actively promote these values and try to live by them.

We actively promote British values in the following ways:

Democracy

"Respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process."

- Each class in the school holds elections at the beginning of each academic year to elect representatives for the School Council. The two representatives from each class are elected following a secret ballot.
- Children have the opportunity to have their voice heard and be involved in decision making processes through raising issues in Class Council meetings. Following Class Council discussions and debates, votes are taken so that choices can be made about the recommendations to take forward to School Council meetings.
- The School Council discusses and debates issues raised by class councils. Minutes are taken and representatives provide other children with feedback from meetings.

- Children have the opportunity to serve as representatives on a whole range of different committees within the school for example as members of the school's Worship Committee, as Values Ambassadors, Junior Travel Ambassadors, members of the school's Sports Crew and the school's Eco-Beavers Committee. Membership of these committees enables children to experience being part of discussions, debates and decision making processes.
- Through the annual Pupil Questionnaire, children are given the opportunity to have their voices heard and changes are implemented in response to pupil feedback. Examples of this include improving playground markings to make playtime more enjoyable and allow children to take part in the daily mile at playtimes and lunchtimes.
- Additional Pupil Questionnaires are also carried out to provide staff with information about a specific area, for example linked to children's views about reading provision. Reading surveys in 2016-17 led to new books and magazines being purchased for the school libraries.
- Individual children are appointed to positions of responsibility within the classroom and across the school. As part of a longstanding St Mary's tradition, Year 6 children are elected as House and Vice Captains following a democratic election held amongst the staff in the summer term.
- School leaders include pupil voice discussions as part of the overall monitoring and evaluation process.
- The principle of democracy is explored within the curriculum as well as through Worship and special events or visits such as the Year 6 annual visit to the Magistrates' Court and the Year 6 Democracy Workshops led by students from the Beverley Joint Sixth Form where children are given the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the British parliamentary system and election processes.

Rule of Law

"Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England" and "support for equality of opportunity for all."

- The school has a Behaviour Policy which aligns with the overall aims of the school, its commitment to "Nurturing Success" and its six key Christian values. The policy applies to all key stages in the school and is applied consistently by all members of staff.
- Children understand school rules which are conveyed through 'The School Code.' The School Code was developed by the School Council, following Class Council meetings in which every child in the school was involved in discussing and prioritising school rules. It embraces the principles and behaviour expectations of the school and is displayed in every classroom. Children are reminded of it at the start of every term and regularly throughout the term and understand that it exists to keep people safe and happy.
- The Home-School Agreement is also printed in each pupil's School Diary and sets out an agreed statement of expectations and responsibilities for children, staff and parents/carers. Pupils are also expected to sign the Acceptable Use Rules regarding Online Safety.
- Children are supported to learn how to distinguish right from wrong. The children understand the consequences of inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour and are aware that appropriate and fair sanctions are employed when rules have been broken.
- The principles of Restorative Practice inform and guide behaviour management within the school. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and to consider the impact of their behaviour on others.
- Children are expected to develop a respect for Law and Order and enjoy visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire and Ambulance Service to help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

“Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law.”

- At St Mary’s C E Primary School, children are actively encouraged to try a range of different activities and opportunities and to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe, nurturing environment. Children are, for example, given information about extra-curricular activities and clubs and are encouraged to select clubs based on their own interests and preferences.
- Opportunities are provided for children to develop their self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities.
- Children in the school are encouraged to take on roles and responsibilities through becoming class monitors or members of school committees. All Year 6 pupils have a specific role or “job” within the school. These roles include being a House or Vice Captain, Young Leader, Digital Leader, Committee member, Librarian, Playground or Lunchtime monitor. Children in other year groups also may hold other responsibilities such as providing assistance in the hall at lunchtimes.
- Children’s achievements are celebrated through certificates awarded in the school’s weekly Celebration Worship which family members are invited to attend and through a range of displays in classrooms and around the school.
- Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour. The principles of restorative practice underpin the school’s behaviour policy and children are always guided to take responsibility for their actions and consider the impact of their behaviour on others.
- Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are given advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through our Online Safety teaching and PSHE curriculum.
- The school has a strong anti-bullying culture. Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes are challenged.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

“Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religions and other beliefs.”

- Respect is one of the school’s core values and the children have a very clear understanding of the importance of respectful behaviour. All members of staff model respectful, courteous behaviour.
- Pupils are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life. The school has links with schools in Germany and Poland and students and teachers from these schools make visits to the school on an annual basis. The school also has links with a school in London which has a very culturally diverse pupil population. The school curriculum has also been designed to enable pupils to gain an understanding of the wider world through themes which focus on particular countries or regions. For example, children in Year 2 learn about Mexico and Year 4 pupils explore North and South America.
- Pupils are given opportunities to learn about different faiths and religions through Religious Education lessons, Collective Worship and visits to places of worship. Members of different

religions are also invited into school to share their knowledge and experiences and enhance pupils' understanding of and respect for other faiths.

- Through the PSHE and RE curriculums, children are encouraged to develop a respect for the differences between people such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality.
- Staff and pupils challenge any prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour though incidence is rare.

British Traditions and British Heritage

We want pupils to have knowledge of British history and our British heritage and to feel part of the cultural and historical traditions that we are renowned for as a nation. As a school, we visit St Mary's Church at key moments in the year for Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christmas and Easter Services. We also celebrate Royal events and other moments of national importance such as elections or important sporting events and provide opportunities for children to visit places of cultural significance such as the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The school community is united through these occasions and traditions. We also provide opportunities for children to take part in celebrations which reflect the diversity of world faiths and cultures such as Chinese New Year and Vasant Panchami.