

British Values Statement

'Welcome to St Winefride's where we come together to LEARN, LAUGH, LISTEN, LIVE and LOVE in the presence of Jesus.

At our school, we believe that everyone is valued as a unique gift from God. We work together to create an engaging learning environment, where all pupils are challenged to achieve their full potential.'

As a Catholic school, our ethos is based on Jesus' teachings and Gospel Values. We promote love, peace, forgiveness, compassion, mercy, equality, justice, humility and service through what we say, what we do and how we treat each other in school and others in the wider community. We recognise the importance of not only helping pupils to grow academically, but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens in the 21st Century.

The government set out what it considers to be British values in the 'Prevent' strategy in 2011, which was aimed at identifying and combatting radicalisation and extremism. These British values are:

- Democracy,
- The rule of law,
- Individual liberty,
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

All schools have a duty to actively promote these fundamental British values, which means challenging opinions or behaviours that are contrary to the values.

Our school's Catholic values go hand in hand with the British values. Our curriculum is broad and balanced and we look to celebrate each child's unique talents and skills at all times. We also recognise the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination and we promote the British values in the following ways:

Democracy

Pupil voice has a high profile at our school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our children. Some examples include:

- The School Council - the election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action. From Year 2 upwards, candidates put themselves forward for election and have to write a supporting statement, which is shared with their class. Pupils then vote in secret. Two representatives are elected from each class, with the out-going Year 5 councillors remaining on the council to give support. The Council meets regularly with the Deputy Headteacher to discuss issues raised by the different classes.
- Play Leaders and Buddies – Year 6 children have the opportunity to apply to become a Play Leader and/or a Buddy. This is done in writing and they sign a contract to agree to carry out role.
- Ancient Greece – though the KS 2 History curriculum, the children learn about the beginnings of the system of democracy.
- Pupil Questionnaires – from time to time, children are asked to fill in questionnaires about aspects of their school life.

Rule of Law

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is to ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ (Matthew 22:37-39)

The importance of abiding by the rules and laws of the country is reinforced in the classroom and in assemblies. As a faith community, these rules are underpinned by God’s Law, the Ten Commandments and Jesus’s last commandment, *‘Love one another as I have loved you.’*

Some of the other ways in which the children learn about the Rule of Law include:

- There is a clear behaviour policy that all pupils understand. Pupils know when rewards and sanctions are used.
- Each September, the pupils are involved in the creation of their own class rules.
- The children are involved in the reviewing of the school’s Mission Statement.
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in a sports lesson, for example.
- The older children take responsibilities which promote the upholding of the school rules and law of the land, such as acting as Buddies, Play Leaders, Road safety Officers etc.
- Through *‘The Way, the Truth and the Life’* (the RE Scheme of work), assemblies and PSHE, the children learn about Human Rights and the rights and responsibilities that come with this.
- Visits from members of the police, PSCO or fire service or local road safety team helps reinforce why we have laws and why it is important to follow them in and out of school.

Individual Liberty

In an inclusive environment, pupils are encouraged to be independent in their choices, knowing that they are in a safe and secure and supportive environment in which the adults have set clear boundaries. We celebrate each child’s unique talents and interests. Pupils are encouraged to know their rights and responsibilities, to understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms, through:

- Discussions and debates in PSHE, RE and other appropriate lessons,
- Team activities and cooperation. This forms an important part of the residential visits in years 4 and 6.
- A personalised curriculum or differentiated curriculum – some children require more specific tasks and activities, designed to suit their needs.
- Year 6 children taking part in ‘The Young Apprentice’ Challenge.

We provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely; for example, children are sometimes allowed to make:

- Choices about what learning challenge or activity they can take part in,
- Choices about how they record their learning,
- Choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities

We celebrate all our pupils' achievements, both in school and out of school, at fortnightly Achievement Assemblies. At these assemblies, behaviour and acts, where pupils have demonstrated how to be good role models, are celebrated and rewarded.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Other Faiths

Our Mission Statement aims to ensure that all members of our school community treat one another with respect, kindness and compassion. This is achieved through:

- Being a faith community, in which RE lessons and assemblies emphasise that every person is unique and created in the image of God. Everyone is valued and difference is celebrated and supported.
- Holding an Another Faith Week each year, which culminates in a shared assembly to which parents and friends are invited. This encourages pupils to have a deep understanding of their own faith as well as awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as a basis for understanding and respecting them.
- Events such as a multi-faith service with religious leaders from various world religions, which was held to commemorate WW1 and stress the importance of peace among nations.
- Having Year 6 Play Leaders and Buddies model this in their support of other pupils at lunch and break times and around the school,
- Ensuring that good manners are expected at all times from everyone and pupils are taught how to behave in debates and to listen and respond constructively.
- Encouraging pupils' keenness to support a wide range of charities; local, national or global, often devising their own fundraising projects.
- Having clear behaviour and anti-bullying policies, that promote mutual respect.
- Religious Education, PSHE or circle time activities and other lessons where we might develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures – in English, through fiction and in Art by considering culture from other parts of the world, for example