

## **British Values at Holy Family Catholic Primary School**

The government set out its definition of 'British values' in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011), which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalization of young people. The DfE state 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 emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools.

The promotion of 'British values' is central to Catholic education because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

At Holy Family Catholic Primary School we recognise, not only the importance of helping students to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the Common Good of all. We teach the importance of British Values by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian Values. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why *British values* are important. Our framework for understanding British values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all. At Holy Family we provide an education which focuses on the formation of the whole person and on our vocation and purpose in life. We are guided by our mission statement 'living each day as one happy and Holy Family'.

We place a significant emphasis on the celebration of individuality and difference within our communities and our calling to work for the Common Good, in the service of others. Our Catholic ethos, which includes explicit reference to Christian and *British values*, makes a tangible difference to the way we work together and with our wider communities.

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed *British values* at Holy Family Catholic Primary School and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

### **Democracy**

Democracy is common within the school; children vote for their class representatives on the School Council and this allows a vehicle for student voice. Within their House Groups children also decide who plays in which positions in team sports and who represents the team in which races on sports day. Children collaboratively establish their class charter at the beginning of the school year and every child and adult in the class sign it. Our school attendance policy also involves monthly rewards for a class. Children are fully involved in choosing the choice of reward.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Holy Family. We believe in reconciliation and therefore pupils are encouraged to talk through their problems and make peace with each other. 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire Service and Junior Citizen scheme are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

## **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, and are advised how to exercise these safely; for example through E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Children are given choice through the clubs they join and often through the way they choose to compose their work. We actively teach children tolerance of other people's choices referring to how God gave each of us free will to choose our own path and we must be accepting of this.

## **Mutual Respect**

Respect is something we hold as being a core value as God made everyone equal. These ideas are reiterated through the school and classroom rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Additional support is provided for individual pupils, through our SEN team based in The Stars Suite. This support helps to develop self-esteem and to practise strategies pupils can employ to help improve their respect of others. In Assembly on a Friday we celebrate the achievements of children within our school.

## **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by providing opportunities to experience such diversity. This is done largely through assemblies and our RE and PSHE curriculum.

*The school does, through a wide range of activities, secure such standards and uses strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for children. The list below outlines samples of when and where such British Values are shared. The list is not exhaustive, and represents only some of what we do.*

- School council
- Visits to local council chambers/Houses of Parliament
- Collaborative projects in partnership with Deanery & Confederation schools
- Class rules
- House system, including House Captains
- Prefects, Buddies, Cutie Duty, Reading Partners, Junior Librarians, Reading Champions
- Holy Family Flames
- Charity work (including child-led initiatives)
- Parish/Community work including supporting SVP Society
- Studies of other faiths as part of the RE curriculum
- PSHE, Circle Time
- Positive behaviour strategies & system of individual & collective rewards
- Explicit teaching of British history within the curriculum
- Holy Family Feast Day, Grandparents Week, Baby & Welcome Assemblies
- Working partnership with I-Can Meath Special School
- Working Partnership with Grass Roots Project – community outreach work
- Table of Unity Project (Magna Carta 800 Celebrations)
- Celebration of St George's Day, St Andrew's Day, St David's Day
- Remembrance Garden & Remembrance Day
- Harvest Festival
- Traditional Festivals across the year
- Junior Citizen project
- Dragon's Den Initiative
- E-Safety (including representation of the Surrey E-Safety Board)
- Sporting Opportunities
- Celebration of International Week/International Days
- Organising and running 'Village Fair'

**Studies:** Children are encouraged to develop the skill base required to access/share information, make/express decisions and apply themselves to society and the world. These include the understanding and use of money, effective writing and reading skills, collaborative work, the discussion and researching of ideas and concepts, and gaining a broad and balanced understanding of the society in which they live. Aspects of study beyond core skills include the historical and geographical context of the United Kingdom, incorporating local and national evolution, as well as international comparisons.

**Whole school daily acts of collective worship/assembly:** The sharing of stories, images, events, music and expectations that, with clarity and precision, promote the values expressed. Such proceedings vary in the methodology of delivery in order to secure interest and understanding and are designed to impact on children regardless of knowledge, experience or cognitive maturity. As a Catholic school our assemblies are of religious content, but our going forth message always refers to how we can apply what we have learnt to help those around us and those in need across the world.

**Religious Education:** Gaining a greater understanding of religious diversity and practices, which cover key religions represented in the UK. We follow the Arundel & Brighton Diocese RE programme of study ('Come and See'). Each class spends time studying a different religion so that across their time at Holy Family, all children cover all major religions leading to a greater understanding of each.

**Physical Education:** We believe it is vital to instil in children the concept of 'fair play', following and developing rules, inclusion, celebrating and rewarding success, being magnanimous in defeat and participating in activities that promote kinship and affiliation with others. There are significant opportunities for all pupils, throughout their time in school, to participate in competitions and events which promote these values. All pupils participate in an extensive range of physical and athletic activities, extra-curricular clubs and intra and inter school competitions.

## **PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM**

**Radicalisation** is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

**Extremism** is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

At Holy Family we have a **zero tolerance** approach to extremist behaviour for all school community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our children protects them from exposure to negative influences.

Holy Family is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

- Children are encouraged to adopt and live out our Core Values. These complement the key "British Values" of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.

- Children are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through the SEAL (Social, emotional aspects of learning) assemblies and through the elected School Council members.

Children are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet.

- Children organise and run their own charity events, deciding who to raise money for.
- Children participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background.
- Children's wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and extra-curricular learning opportunities.
- Children are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.

## THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The RE (Religious Education), PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of our school. Children learn about all major faiths and places of worship. They are also taught about how to stay safe when using the internet.

*"We are proud that Catholic schools promote values that are both Catholic and British, including: respect for the individual, democracy, individual liberty, respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. Our schools promote cohesion by serving more ethnically diverse and poorer communities. Catholic schools provide high standards of education which are popular with parents from all social, economic and faith backgrounds."* **Paul Barber (Catholic Education Service 15 December 2014).**

*Should you feel that the school is not meeting this requirement, you should contact the school office and request to express your concerns with the Headteacher. Likewise, if you feel that anyone working at the school is, intentionally or otherwise undermining these values, you should report this to the Headteacher*

**This policy was agreed and accepted by the governing body in September 2023:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Headteacher)

**Date of next review: September 2025**