

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy

British Values Policy

Updated 2019

1. Overview

The Department for Education reinforce the need to, “create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British Values”

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five British values are:

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

At St Bernadette's we regard British Values as an important component of the whole curriculum. We believe that promoting British Values is central to the life of the school and its relationships with the surrounding community. The values are reinforced regularly through our core teaching based on Gospel values, as outlined in our Mission Statement. This teaching is fundamental to what we believe and we strive always to ensure these values are understood and applied.

2. Aims

At St Bernadette's Catholic Primary Academy we aim to:

- Actively 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.
- Promote the importance of looking after everyone we meet, recognising that everyone is unique and special.
- Enable all pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self confidence
- Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and the responsibilities which underpin our actions.
- Encourage all pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, using restorative practice to help solve problems and restore friendships.

- Promote further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures taught through our 'Other Faiths' topics within R.E.
- Explicitly teach the need to 'Love one another as I have loved you' St John.

3. Embedding British Values

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary Academy use strategies within the National curriculum and beyond to ensure the development of the five British Values for pupils. The following examples show some of the many ways our Academy strive to consistently embed the British values.

Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at St Bernadettes Academy, with democracy processes being used for important decisions within the academy community. Pupil voice is valued at our academy. We have an academy council, our members are elected by classmates after a formal election process has taken place. During an academy council meeting members debate, vote and communicate results to their classes.

The principle of democracy is also explored in the History and Religious Education curriculum as well as in class time and assemblies.

The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that oversee the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at St Bernadettes Academy. Pupils are taught the rules and expectations of the school which are highlighted by the Mission statement. All pupils are supported to understand the reason behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from public services such as the Police, Fire Service, NSPCC and Lifeguards reinforce this message.

A consistent behaviour Policy and use of the gold star/coloured card system throughout the academy encourage the children to be responsible for their actions and help them realise the consequences when laws are broken.

Overall the children know that they are responsible for their own actions guided by the laws of the land and Gods own laws and that this involves accepting everyone's differences as well as the things they have in common.

Individual liberty

At St Bernadette's Primary Academy, pupils are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make informed decisions, through a safe environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through esafety. Our Academy has an anti-bullying culture and has in place a comprehensive range of policies that set out expectations and individual responsibilities in relation to Behaviour, Healthy Relationships and Informed Choices.

Mutual Respect

Respect is integral aspect of St Bernadette's Academy and is central to our Mission Statement and Gospel Values. Pupils learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the academy community treat each other with respect and this is demonstrated through our teaching and learning environments. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for pupils to express their views in a safe environment. A home/school agreement is read and signed by parents and pupils to promote a mutual respect between our academy and home.

Our older pupils are trained as 'Buddies', who have an important role to play. If a child has a problem or want to talk to someone, the buddies will listen and give advice and support. The buddies will always suggest adult involvement where necessary.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

This is achieved though equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society. Pupils are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the academy and we celebrate festivities throughout the calendar year. Our Religious Education curriculum provides a balanced and broad education on a range of religions and cultures and through termly focusses on other Faiths. We celebrate the same faith across the academy which provides a whole academy celebration of the faith from nursery through to year 6.

4. Roles & Responsibilities

The staff at St Bernadette's Primary Academy will:

- Ensure that fundamental British values are embedded as an integral part of the ethos and Catholic beliefs at the Academy

- Ensure all students within the school, have a voice that is listened to and acted up on
- Ensure that all visitors into the Academy are DBS cleared to help safeguard children and make sure visitors do not attempt to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values including extremism or radicalisation
- Ensure that our students understand that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety
- Teach our students about the democracy and the rule of English civil and criminal law
- Demonstrate how democracy works and by developing an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making by actively promoting democratic processes such as electing a school council
- Reinforce fundamental British values through the SMSC programme – Journey in Love and PSHE programme - Jigsaw
- Ensure that our students are taught a balanced RE curriculum- Come and See, that is broadly Christian but, also takes account of the teaching and practices of the other religions represented in Britain and in our Academy
- Ensure that we develop a tolerance and understanding of different faiths, cultures and beliefs by, inviting visiting speakers to the school and using teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths
- Allow our students to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will enable them to participate fully in and contribute positively to our local community and life in modern Britain
- Enable our students to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in the academy community. E.g. Buddies, safeguarding team and sports ambassadors

The British Value Leader's role will include the following responsibilities:

- To ensure that the British Values policy document reflects the requirements of the needs and ethos of the academy.
- To review and update the British Values policy document every two years.
- To provide leadership and guidance in the area of British Values; and to support staff where required
- To lead staff meetings and training sessions on issues related to the implementation of British Values.
- To attend relevant training and subject leader meetings to update knowledge, and to disseminate advice and current information in the subject to staff.

- To undertake an audit/evaluation and action plan on an annual basis.
- To liaise with other schools and agencies.

Supporting documents

The following school policy documents should be consulted to support the British Values policy:

Jigsaw PSHE Programme

Religious Education Programme – Come and See

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) programme – Journey in Love

SEND Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy

Safeguarding Policy

ICT Policy

Religious Education Policy

SMSC Policy

Policy Review

The PSHE Policy should be reviewed and updated every two years. Date of next review: Summer Term 2021