

British Values

British values can play an important role in education. British values are promoted in so much of what we do, particularly during our Collective Worship, Religious Education, RSE and PSHE lessons.

As a Catholic School, we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils' character and moral perspective through the teachings of the Church. We are confident that our continued focus on our Faith, the Gospel Values and placing God at the centre of everything that we do will give our pupils the necessary awareness and understanding of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today. This embeds in them the building blocks of a future successful and productive life.

Through our curriculum we teach about democracy, civic responsibility, rules and laws, the monarchy, equality, values and virtues, environmental awareness and understanding of other faiths.

As well as actively promoting British values, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values.

Below are just a few examples of how we promote British values. The first section is a general overview; the others are specific expectations set out by Ofsted.

*Schools are subject to a duty (Section 26, Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015) to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the **Prevent Duty**. At the foot of this policy there is information to support parents in discussions about extremism and preventing radicalisation.*

As St Polycarp's school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of every child and adult. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions, such as customs in the course of the year, for example, Remembrance Day, Anti-Bullying Week, National Diversity Week and Christmas.

Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different specific perspectives. Two specific examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

Geographically: As Geographers we ensure that children have a better understanding of Britain, learning more about:

- Our local area
- Capital cities and counties, rivers and mountains
- How 'Great Britain' differs from 'England' and 'the United Kingdom'
- Where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world

Historically: As Historians we ensure that the children gain a good understanding of Britain through the ages. Children learn different aspects of life, across time periods and how this has developed and changed over time.

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at St Polycarp's Catholic Primary School. Democracy is central to how we operate.

The core of this is achieved through our [pupil voice groups](#), which include: School Council, Sports' Leaders, One World, Eco Council, Spiritual Council and House Captains'. The election of our various committees reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret using a ballot system. The committees meet regularly to discuss issues raised by children as well as to discuss areas that they consider worthy of a pupil voice. The various committees are able to genuinely effect change within the school.

Other examples of 'pupil voice' are:

- children agree their Class Charter and the rights associated with these; all children contribute to the drawing up of the charter
- children nominate various charities, which they raise monies for throughout the year

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, through use of metacognition. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated constantly by our pupils.

The Rule of Law

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, every class discusses and sets its own **Class Charter**; a set of principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.

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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- during Religious Education, when rules for different faiths are discussed
- during other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules, i.e. in a sports lesson, our school sports motto is '*Win with grace, lose with grace*'
- Visiting Lawyer and visiting Judge where a mock courtroom is set-up

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- choices about what learning challenge or activity suits their needs
- choices about how they record their learning
- choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in during e-safety and PSHE.

Mutual Respect

St Polycarp's is in an area to a diverse community that includes people from all around the world, speaking different languages, and adhering to various beliefs. Respect is at the heart of our school rules – Be Respectful is one of our three school rules, children are taught to respect everyone and everything.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have, and to everything, whether it is a religious belief, someone's property or a football team. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community should treat each other with respect.

The Church teaches that we are called to listen in dialogue, be ready to learn from those of other faiths and to reflect positively on them. We teach children the value of living in relationship to those around them, in school, in their parishes, in their local communities and in the wider world.

Specific examples of how we at St Polycarp's enhance pupils understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- through Religious Education
- Visiting spiritual leaders, i.e. Rabbi
- Lessons where we might develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures
- We consider groups or individuals who might be vulnerable in some way, such as those with mental health issues, or those who are young carers; we hold specific assemblies where these areas are talked about directly

Tolerance

In this climate, parents and teachers have a vital role to play in helping children grow up without prejudice and learn empathy and show tolerance

St Polycarp's School is proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Tolerance, politeness and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims, ethos and curriculum.

Our central aim to play, pray, love and learn together drives us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that tolerance and respect is shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect and show tolerance to others views and opinions.

Children are encouraged to share their own experiences when celebrating their own faith. Daily worship reflects and teaches the children tolerance for different faiths and beliefs. We have our St Polycarp's prayer which encompasses a shared belief and value.

Activities within school support both children and adults of different or no faith, the children are taught respect and tolerance of all groups and the opinions of the others are taken into account with all activities.

Read the government's [Prevent Duty Guidance](#) and its [Guidance for Schools](#).

Whilst instances contrary to our values are exceptionally rare; any incidents contrary to our Values are treated seriously in line with our policies and expectations.