

## Promoting British Values at St John's

In many respects the world has become a smaller place as we all have access to a greater range of diverse views and opinions through the World Wide Web, easier travel and a greater number of people coming to live in the United Kingdom. It is therefore right that we as a school play an active part in promoting those values that we as a country hold dear and that have been outlined by the Department of Education (DfE) as British Values.

In many respects these values are second nature to us. As a Church School built on a strong values ethos much of what we view as British values runs through the heart of our school community. The DfE has set out these out more definitively as being;

- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Individual liberty

Promoting British Values and teaching children to respect each other's differences is a very important part of life at St John the Baptist Primary School. We promote the core aspects of British values through the Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural (SMSC) work that is integrated throughout every year group. All adults working with children in school promote British values and attitudes that provide a model of behaviour for pupils. In addition we specifically deliver work on British values in the following ways;

### **Mutual Respect**

Respect is one of our key values and pupils are regularly reminded of the importance of this value through its inclusion in collective worship planning and subsequent discussions that follow on from this. Mutual respect is also reiterated through our classroom rules and through our school behaviour policy.

Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of our school community are expected to treat each other with respect.

We use aspects of Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) for some of our SMSC work. Focus on topics such as "Getting On and Falling Out" help children to understand the importance of friendship qualities such as honesty, respect etc.

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

As a Church School our role is not to proselytize but rather to create a culture through which children can learn about faith, across a range of world religions, and to support children in thinking about the "big questions" that we all have. We support children to ask what their response is to those questions and how faith might influence the response of those who have a particular belief.

Through working in this way we ensure that there is a tolerance of different cultures, faiths and beliefs.

Through our lessons children gain an understanding that they live in a culturally diverse society. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge and enhance learning at the school and children also visit different places of worship. In addition our study of British history underpins the notions of our shared heritage, values and traditions.

Collective worship and subsequent discussions also reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Children also learn the importance of a number of significant festivals to those who follow different religions. Children also learn the importance of important British events, such as the commemoration of Armistice Day and St George's Day.

Pupils' understanding of the diversity of society is also encouraged through their participation in and support for good causes and charities. This they do in their support for both local, national and international charities. The regularly donate food to the local foodbank and they raise money for a variety of charities such as the NSPCC and Children In Need. Through working to make donations to Christian Aid, Comic Relief and Rotary Club Shoe Box Appeal children also extend their understanding of the needs of people beyond the UK.

### **Democracy**

Democracy can be seen in action at our school in many ways. We have a pupil council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised and to make contributions to ideas about school's development. The school council is elected democratically, and those elected represent children across school. The Pupil Council provides the pupils with an opportunity to raise issues, decide how money is spent, organise events and activities and put forward suggestions about school development.

Through all areas of the curriculum pupils are taught the importance of listening to others and their viewpoints and this is strongly underpinned through our church school ethos. In addition aspects of specific curriculum areas underpin the importance of democracy, such as the work undertaken in Year 6 on the importance of World War II on the continuation of democracy to the country.

### **The Rule of Law**

From entering the school in Reception children are taught that rules and values protect us and that everyone has a responsibility to uphold these. They are also taught that there are consequences when rules are broken. Children are involved in the establishing of class rules in regularly discussing how these need to be upheld.

Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; etc. are a regular part of our curriculum calendar and our work in this area helps to reinforce the message of the importance of the rule of law.

We have established Playground Mediators, Junior Community Police Officers and Junior Road Safety Officers to support the reinforcement of rules in school and children in these roles regularly organise events and campaigns to promote aspects of the importance of the rule of law e.g. the promotion of sensible behaviour at Halloween.

### **Individual Liberty**

Making the right choices and being responsible for those choices are important principles that we promote at St John's. All children receive equal opportunities and are encouraged to be independent in making the choice that is right for them. Pupils are actively encouraged to make informed 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 an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and we advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

### **Document History**

This document draws together the school's many responses to the promotion of fundamental British values

The document is to be discussed by governors at the Curriculum and Standards Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016