

Philosophy

British Values are promoted through SMSC and embedded into the school curriculum. Our school seeks to support the health and wellbeing of all pupils and will provide education and care that recognises the individual needs of all children. Our ethos is guided by the morals of Good Samaritan.

This policy takes into account section 78 of the Education Act 2002 which requires schools, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society. It also takes into account the non-statutory advice on British values from the Department of Education (November 2014), the Prevent Strategy, the Teachers Standards and the Equality Act 2010 Advice for Schools.

Basic Principles

St Mary's First School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We are dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values to all of our pupils.

At St Mary's First School we take very seriously our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain. We value the diverse backgrounds of all pupils and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate and explore these alongside other cultures in our country.

We ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of the school. All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts. Our cross curricular approach provides excellent opportunities to deepen and develop understanding, developing the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of our children.

The school makes considerable efforts to ensure children have exposure to a wide experience beyond their local community during which these concepts are shown, eg through sporting events and a range of visits. Their strong rooted values based understanding gives them an excellent platform for embracing difference.

The Promotion of the Fundamental British Values

St Mary's First School actively promotes the fundamental British values of:

Democracy,

The rule of law

Individual liberty

Mutual respect

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

This is achieved through the effective spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and extra-curricular activities, through our links with both the local community and the wider world. In promoting our pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC), we demonstrate our commitment to actively promoting fundamental British values in ways which are appropriate to our pupils' age and ability. These link closely to the promotion of the school's Christian Values.

Guidelines

We will enable our pupils to understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law. The ethos and teaching of our school, which we will make parents aware of, will support the rule of English civil and criminal law and we will not teach anything that undermines it. In our teaching about religious law, we will take particular care to explore the relationship between state and religious law. Our pupils will be made aware of the difference between the law of our land and religious law.

Democracy

At St Mary's, we value the voice of the child and promote democratic processes such as our School Council and our Eco Council whose members are voted for by the children. All pupils are offered the opportunity to deliver a short election speech to their class before a vote is taken. Ideas and events are planned and discussed with a chance for debate and putting forward points of view.

Democracy is evident throughout the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults, and are taught to listen carefully and respect the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard.

The Rule of Law

Pupils are taught the values and reasons behind laws (and rules), leading to an understanding that they are designed to protect us, and enable us to carry out our daily lives safely, freely, and purposefully, whether in the classroom or beyond. Pupils are also made aware that they themselves are responsible for enacting laws and rules, and that not doing so may involve consequences. Visits from authorities such as the Police help to reinforce this message, as do activities based around e-safety and cyber bullying for example.

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 all pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering approach through the education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; for example, pupils are allowed to run lunchtime clubs or help to prepare for Collective Acts of Worship, with minimal adult supervision, and organised by themselves.

Mutual Respect

Our school vision, ethos, and Positive Behaviour Policy are based around core Christian values such as compassion, responsibility and trust, and these values help to determine how we live as a community at St. Mary's and are central to how we expect everyone to conduct themselves at our school, knowing that Jesus instructed us to "Love our Neighbours".

Our pupils and staff live by these values, and are keen to identify them in one another. They understand what they mean and can demonstrate these fully. The pupils know and understand what is expected of them, and know that it is essential for respect to be shown to everyone, whatever differences may exist. We expect all our children to be good role models for each other, which is encouraged through high expectations of behaviour.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs (and those of no faith):

At St. Mary's First School we celebrate the culturally rich and diverse groups that make up British Society. In Religious Education pupils learn about the various religions that exist within Britain, and compare the similarities and differences between them. Pupils are aware that all of these religions are practised, and learn about them, upholding respect for the collective beliefs of each religion. To enhance learning, our children make visits to experience first-hand, places of worship from other religions, and the believers themselves. St. Mary's is proactive in its pursuit of tolerance, and will always act to address misconceptions regarding different faiths and beliefs.

The Provision of SMSC

Through our provision of SMSC, we will:

- enable our pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable our pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage our pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable our pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further develop tolerance and harmony between our country's different cultural traditions by enabling our pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people; and encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England
- ensure that our curriculum includes activities appropriate to the age and development of our pupils that will help to prepare them positively for life in modern Britain and the detail for this will be found in our curriculum planning.

Policy Links

- Anti-bullying
- Behaviour
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Curriculum areas
- Equality and Diversity
- RHE/PSHE
- SEND

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