

BRITISH VALUES

At St Mary's we are keen to ascertain pupils understanding of these values. For this reason we conduct surveys with a cross section of pupils. Our recent survey highlighted the need to address a deeper understanding of the terms 'tolerance' and 'liberty'.

Teachers are taking every opportunity to help pupils understand these terms and their practical application in our society.

1. What do you understand by the term, 'Democracy'?

90% of pupils could explain what 'Democracy' meant.
2. How and where do you see democracy in action at St Mary's?

All pupils answered that the election of school council demonstrates the democratic process. 20% of pupils went on to say that the way children and adults are listened to demonstrates democracy. One pupil also said that the Governing Body is democratic.

The fact that pupils get to choose which clubs they go to was also mentioned as was teachers listening to pupils opinions.
3. What is the role of the school council?

All pupils surveyed were of the same opinion - that school council is there to listen to everyone's point of view, to work together for the good of the school and to initiate changes for the better.
4. How do you know that the school council's ideas/opinions are listened to?

Pupils said they were aware of the meetings taking place. Classes keep special books that suggestions are written into. Pupils said that assembly times are used by School Council to share ideas and feedback. Pupils site the goal posts and bike sheds as evidence that School Council are getting things done. Children also said that school Council works as everyone votes for people they can trust.
5. What do you understand by the term 'The Rule of Law'?

Only one child had some confusion around this term - everyone else knew the importance of keeping the law.
6. What are your class rules?

All pupils knew their class rules.
7. What would happen if you broke these rules?

All pupils knew there were consequences to breaking rules.
8. Where else do you think rules apply?

Everyone thought rules applied everywhere. Some children elaborated a little more by saying there were rules in homes. One child sited the Queen's palace as having rules.

9. What do you understand by the term liberty? Where do you see this in action at St Mary's?
Whilst most children thought liberty meant that everyone has the right to choose, 40% pupils had no real understanding of what the term meant. We will need to address this to enable all to understand what liberty is and how it is evidenced at St Mary's.
10. Do you feel safe at school? Why/why not?
95% of pupils said they feel safe at school. They talk of teachers who care, respect and look after them. One pupil said that they knew teachers would do anything for them. Pupils also talk of safety procedures such as locked gates and fire exits and alarms. One child said they only felt safe some of the time as sometimes playtime was a little too rough.
11. Individual liberty is also about giving you the choice to enjoy other opportunities at school. What does school offer you?
All pupils talked about a range of extra-curricular clubs; school trips; opportunities to work together; being happy; linking with other schools; competitions
12. What does the word respect mean?
Pupils could articulate different interpretations to this word. Many talked of being kind; listening to others; treating others as they would like to be treated.
13. How do we learn about different faiths, beliefs and cultures in school?
All pupils said assembly times and RE lessons.
14. Is everyone who attends our school British? How do you know?
Pupils knew that we had some children who were not British.
15. Are all British born people Christians? Tell me of some other faiths we have within our country?
Pupils knew that you could be British but not Christian - one child said that some British people were Jewish. Different faiths were listed - Buddhism, Islam, Jewish faith, Hinduism.
16. How could we help you to understand more about other faiths, beliefs and cultures?
Pupils talked of more RE lessons or faith clubs.
17. What do you understand by the term tolerance?
Only 15% of pupils had a correct understanding of this term. This is an area that also needs addressing.