



Promoting British Values

The DfE have recently reinforced the need “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to 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.”

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated in 2014.

At St Mary’s we take opportunities to actively promote British Values through our daily assemblies and whole school systems and structures such as electing and running a successful School Council. We also actively promote the British values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values. Actively promoting British Values also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including ‘extremist’ views.

At St Mary’s C of E Primary School we strive to ensure each year group promotes these values and individuals are prepared for life in modern Britain. The values we focus upon on are: love; courage; compassion; honesty; respect and determination.

St Mary’s Mission Statement underpins the importance of these values

- We aim to provide a secure and stimulating environment which is intellectually and spiritually challenging and encourages each child to achieve their full potential.
- To ensure this happens we provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which matches the abilities and aptitudes of the children to ensure they reach their full potential.
- We create a Christian ethos within our school, an awareness of moral values and respect for the religious beliefs of others, through our strong links with the church and the local community.
- We provide a stimulating and motivating learning environment by displaying children’s work and resources in an attractive and informative way.
- We create a happy atmosphere where our children feel secure and valued.

Some examples of how we incorporate these values into school life

Democracy: We listen to children’s and parent’s voice. Questionnaires are used regularly to ascertain opinions and the results are taken into account by decision makers. Our school behaviour policy is clear that children are expected to contribute and co-operate, taking into account the views of others. Each year group votes a pupil to join School Council. The School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by pupils. They also have a budget to spend as determined by pupils.

The Rule of Law: We consistently reinforce our high expectations of children. Children are taught the value and reasons behind our expectations (rules) that they are there to protect us, that everyone has a responsibility and that there are consequences when rules are broken.



Individual Liberty: Within school, children 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 young children to make choices safely, through our provision of a safe environment and empowering teaching. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms.

Mutual Respect: Part of our school ethos has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and children are modelled this by caring, sharing and listening to others. The staff help children to understand how to respect by talking about how actions/words can affect others. The school also undertakes daily assemblies which uphold traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs: We aim to enhance children's understanding of different faiths and beliefs by participating in a range of celebrations throughout the year. Children have the opportunity to dress-up in clothes and try different foods from other cultures and we encourage parents/carers to participate and support our multi-cultural events.

Key Stage 2

Here assemblies often focus on 'Britishness' - famous Britons and their contribution to our society.

In Year 6, pupils undertake an intense topic about Britain during the 1940's and 1960's. This is linked with the annual Poppy Day celebrations where children purchase poppies and a minute's silence is held in specially created assemblies for the school.

In Year 5, the children learn about the history and geography of the River Mersey. This is linked to the famous history and traditions of Liverpool, and compared with those in other cities both in the UK, and abroad.

Pupils in Year 4 study the Romans including a study of Boudicca, the heroic warrior queen of the British Iceni tribe. During the topic on the Ancient Egyptians, the children research and study Howard Carter, the English archaeologist and Egyptologist who became world famous after discovering the intact tomb of 14th century BC pharaoh Tutankhamun. During the Summer term there is a focus on the work of Sir Edward William Elgar, the English composer.

In Year 3 pupils learn about inspirational people who are British – authors, sports men and women, musicians and politicians, inventors and pioneers. Examples include Sir Winston Churchill, Ellen Mc Arthur, David Livinstone and JK Rowling.

Key Stage 1

Children study a topic on Remembrance each year - what soldiers fought and died for as part of this
In Year 2, there is a strong focus on the work of Florence Nightingale and how she assisted British soldiers in Scutari so they could convalesce after being injured. Florence Nightingale is seen as a 'martyr' by many children in the year group as they find her work and approach to making changes to hospitals both fascinating and inspiring.



Each year children learn about Fairtrade

For Lent children make Pancakes and all children have Lent jars and the money collected goes to our Sponsored child from a third world country .Children compare other cultures with their own.

Assemblies often cover the values of making personal choices, working as a team, respecting other opinions and developing character.

As a whole school, we have celebrated the Olympics, with Olympic themed sports days, competitions to design sports kits and opportunities to learn about the history of Olympians in this country..

More recently, we celebrated the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the birth of Prince George and Princess Charlotte, with special assemblies and themed lessons. The Golden Jubilee was a huge event for the school, with children enjoying a 'street party' event held in the playground. Traditional children's party food of jelly and ice-cream, jam sandwiches and cloudy lemonade were served to all.