



Promoting British Values at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Isleworth

In November 2014, the DfE published its guidance (Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Nov 2014) on promoting British values. In publishing the guidance, Lord Nash, the school's minister said:

"A key part of our plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. We want every school to promote the basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. This ensures young people understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain."

The document states:

"Through their provision of SMSC, schools should:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students 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 students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students 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.

The list below describes the understanding and knowledge expected of pupils as a result of schools promoting fundamental British values.

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence;
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour;
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination. It is not necessary for schools or individuals to 'promote' teachings, beliefs or opinions that conflict with their own, but nor is it acceptable for schools to promote discrimination against people or groups on the basis of their belief, opinion or background."

The full document is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf

As a Catholic school we actively promote the values and practices that shape our children's character, behaviour and moral development primarily through the teaching of the Church. Our values are those espoused in the Gospels and taught by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount:

<i>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven"</i>	Faithfulness & Integrity
<i>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"</i>	Dignity & Compassion
<i>"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"</i>	Humility & Gentleness
<i>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied"</i>	Truth & Justice
<i>"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy"</i>	Forgiveness & Mercy
<i>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God"</i>	Purity & Holiness
<i>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"</i>	Empathy & Peace
<i>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way"</i>	Service & Sacrifice

Our Mission Statement places these into the daily life of the school:

All children are expected to make a full contribution to the school and support the positive endeavours of all its members. At all times we try to live out our mission statement.

Our school family at St Mary's wants this to be a safe, caring, creative and happy place, where we all have a fair chance to learn and grow together and to do the best we can. We do this by knowing and loving Jesus more every day and by following his teachings in a joyful way.

This places a clear emphasis on our community as a whole rather than groups within the community and the values that underpin the cohesive working of the community for everyone's benefit.

We address each of the DfE's areas in the following ways:

Democracy: We actively promote and model democracy by having a school council which has members from Y1 to Year 6. The representatives are voted for by members of each class on an annual basis. It is the representative's job to reflect the concerns of their class/year group and to effect change. They then have to report back to their class/year group on what went on at School Council. Council members attend Governing Board committee meetings once a term.

We organise visits to the LBH council chambers and the Houses of Parliament.

We actively promote British Values at St. Mary's both overtly through our curriculum, and more discreetly through our own values and mission statement.

Examples of this include:

- The Ancient Greeks – Year 4 – discreet work on the introduction of democracy in ancient Athens
- Immigration – Year 6 – through Geography work on movement within Europe, the children look at how immigration has affected change; teaching a valuing of and a tolerance of difference
- Having an overall vote in KS2 for House and Sports Captains
- Class representatives on School Council who meet regularly with the School council lead teacher
- All Enterprise topics teach skills valued by British industries but one of the Year 2 topics involves fundraising
- Whole School Fund Raising Projects: Project Veerni, Mary's Meals, CAFOD
- Ensuring all children are listened to by all adults
- Having a behaviour policy which rewards children for positive behaviour with House Points and awards assemblies which also celebrate the children's achievements out of school.
- Class rules which the children are actively involved in deciding
- Power of the Monarchy – Year 5 – contrasting the development of the monarchy from absolutism to constitutional – particular attention given to Henry VIII's use of Parliament to implement the Protestant Reformation
- Y6 visit the Houses of Parliament and LBH Civic Centre where they take part in mock elections and workshops which focus on democracy at local and national level

- Each class chooses a local saint. Saints are people we esteem and value.

The Rule of Law: We actively promote the rule of law by:

Our RE curriculum makes reference to the rules of the Church and the Rule of God. This extends from knowledge of the 10 Commandments to the Jewish laws to the rules and laws of the Church. The children learn about the importance of rules and laws and their implementation. This gives them a clear view of what is right and wrong.

Beginning the school year in each class with a session on its own “class rules.” These are then agreed by every child in the class. The rules are then posted in the class for all to see. This develops a sense of ownership of the rules and personal responsibility to keep to them. It also develops the concept that there are consequences for not keeping the rules.

Making the children aware of what the overall school rules are and the reasons behind them, these rules include playground rules, e-safety and anti-bullying rules.

Having a behaviour policy which rewards children for positive behaviour with House Points and weekly awards which are celebrated in Key Stage assemblies and also makes clear what is expected and what the consequences are for poor behaviour.

Having yearly organised visits from the police service to reinforce the message of right and wrong. Magistrates from the local court visit to run a ‘mock trial’ with Y6, during the trial the children take on different roles.

Having some assemblies that have a focus linked to citizenship or behaviour and all linked to God’s laws. Children know that the law of the land supersedes religious laws but they are still encouraged to ask “What would Jesus do?”

Individual liberty: We actively promote individual liberty by:

Encouraging the children to be independent in their learning and to be constantly making good choices in their learning, challenging themselves by not setting or grouping them for activities.

Developing the confidence and self-esteem of our children through our work with the Enabling Enterprise Initiative.

Encouraging the making of good, appropriate and safe choices particularly in terms of behaviour, learning and e – safety.

Mutual respect: We actively promote mutual respect by:

Having a Mission Statement, which is on display in every classroom, which speaks of “us all having a fair chance”.

Basing all that we do as a school community, on Christ's command to "love one another" and "treating others as we would like to be treated".

Constantly promoting respect for each other by encouraging good manners

Constantly reinforcing, in lessons, the value of everyone's opinions and views.

Ensuring via PE lessons and in competitive sports situations such as competitions against other schools, that a sense of fair play pervades all we do.

Working collaboratively, thereby respecting the contributions of all in the group or team and developing skills for life.

Having an effective anti-bullying policy which ensures that bullying is understood as a concept and not tolerated with clear consequences for bullying.

Ensuring that our children understand that every person is "born in the image of God" so that all children understand that everyone should be respected regardless of ability, faith, race, gender or sexuality.

Ensuring that by the time children leave us they understand that the law of the land and the traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church may differ. Examples of this may include same sex marriage, adoption issues, and divorce and remarriage.

Supporting charitable work to help those less fortunate. This includes an annual harvest collection which is distributed by a Mary's Meal and the Lenten collections for CAFOD.

This encourages the idea of respecting those who do not have as much as we do by sharing what we have as asked by Christ and His Church.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs: We actively promote tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs by:

Having discreet "other faith" units and appropriate resources as part of our RE scheme of work and ensuring that each child visits a synagogue, gurdwara and mosque during their time with us.