

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT ON BRITISH VALUES



Mission Statement

*"We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as
we learn love and grow together"*



Signature:

Chair of Governors
pp by Vice Chair Nathan Barry

Reviewed – Autumn 2023
To be reviewed – Autumn 2026

Reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee
Ratified at Full Governing Body meeting

Date ratified: 12th March 2024

The DfE have 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 by the Prime Minister in 2014.

At St Vincent de Paul School we are committed to actively promoting British Values, underpinned by the Gospel values upon which our ethos and charism is built. This is achieved through our focus on a broad, balanced and enriched curriculum which has at its centre the spiritual and moral development of each child as well as the development of the unique individual. This is achieved through a range of curriculum foci but in particular through the central bedrock of our RE and PSHE provision. Children have the opportunity to develop skills that are needed for living in modern Britain; these include all aspects of British Values. As a Catholic School, British Values overlap with our Gospel Values. As a school we aim to actively challenge anyone expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including ‘extremist’ views.

British Values have been defined under the following headings:

- *Democracy;*
- *The rule of law;*
- *Individual liberty;*
- *Mutual respect; and*
- *Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs*

1.0 Democracy:

Democracy is richly embedded within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Parliament, pupil questionnaires, or meetings with staff. Pupil Voice informs school improvement.

Linked values from our faith:

Justice, responsibility, trust, service, respect, courage, truthfulness

2.0 The rule of law:

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school collective worship time. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service are a regular part of our calendar events and help reinforce this message. There are three consistent school rules which inform expectations in each class (be safe, be ready, be respectful). These are explored in each class at the beginning of each year. Expectations are reinforced regularly and opportunities are frequently sought to praise positive choices.

Linked values from our faith:

Justice, responsibility, trust, forgiveness, respect, wisdom, truthfulness

3.0 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 empowering approach to education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Pupils are further empowered through having a school parliament and being able to take part in pupil forums which link directly to the senior leadership team or governors. There is a wide variety of leadership opportunities for children to take on more responsibility within the classroom and the wider life of the school, such as producing a weekly newsletter, Pupil Voice and organising their own clubs. Pupils are given the freedom to make a wide range of choices from attending extra curricular clubs to supporting fund raising events.

Linked values from our faith:

Responsibility, service, respect, wisdom, hope, creativity, courage

4.0 Mutual respect:

St Vincent de Paul Catholic School is a culturally rich and diverse school where children have unique opportunities to learn from each other by sharing and celebrating their different cultures and traditions. We aim to respect ourselves, others and the world around us. Respect is one of our values taught explicitly within lessons and collective worship which is shared with home through newsletters and website information. Adults throughout the school model, demonstrate and promote respect for others with the expectation that all children do the same. Children are encouraged to share and celebrate their cultural identities. Our broad and balanced curriculum helps children to connect their learning to give a perspective of people living in other countries.

Linked values from our faith:

Respect, friendship, love, humility, forgiveness, thankfulness, generosity

5.0 Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs:

Collective worship and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are followed up and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. As part of a Catholic school community pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum and spiritual life of the school. Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of any protected characteristics. Members of different faiths or religions are invited to school to share their knowledge and enhance learning within assemblies and in class.

Pupils are helped to understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected. They are taught that people having different faiths and beliefs to ourselves (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.

Linked values from our faith:

Respect, friendship, compassion, humility, peace, trust

Part of our vision at St Vincent de Paul Catholic School is to prepare our children to become valued and active members of society. Promoting British Values, underpinned by the teaching of our faith which support this, enables children to develop a sense of community and understand their responsibilities and roles within it.