

British Values Statement

At St James' CE Academy, we value the diversity and differences of all our pupils and celebrate this through our culture, ethos, approach to learning and our promotion of respectful relationships. Commitment and celebration of our diversity makes us collectively stronger, tolerant and respectful to all.

We provide an environment to allow 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. Through our school ethos and teaching, we emphasise the importance of supporting the rule of English civil and criminal law.

The government set out its definition of British values in 2011 in the document "Prevent Strategy" these values are:

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

A document published by the DfE in November 2014 called "Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC (Spiritual, moral, social and Cultural) education in Schools", outlines how these key British values can be made explicit to children and young people. This document can be read in full at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-through-sm-sc>

We take every opportunity to promote and explore these five key values in a meaningful way that is fundamental to the British Values. These values lend themselves to being discussed and explored across the curriculum and school ethos.

Democracy

We have a School Council, with membership from Year 1 to Year 6, which meets regularly to discuss and to plan projects that will improve the school and be of benefit to its pupils. Prospective School Council members 'pitch' to their class and are democratically elected into office by their peers. In addition, we have Playground Buddies and Road Safety Officers who complete job applications and are selected against a set of criteria established for the role.

Pupils are asked to complete a questionnaire at the end of each academic year so that their views and perceptions about various aspects of school can be recorded, analysed and acted upon.

In classes, we encourage and support children to learn to listen to and respect the opinions of others even if they do not always agree. Through all their learning activities children are encouraged to: discuss, listen, debate and question as these are all excellent life skills to

learn and use when living and taking part in a democratic society. Moreover, through our half termly themed curriculum at St James' CE Academy, we explore a range of matters linked to democracy.

The Rule of Law

The Behaviour Policy at St James' CE Academy is explicit regarding the rules and expectations expected of all children. Children are clear that rules are essential to maintain safety and order; for self, others and the environment. In school, children are taught that sanctions and consequences will be enforced if the rules are not adhered to and by implication this extends to life in modern Britain as a whole. The children also learn through cross-curricular activities about laws, which govern our country.

The children learn about "fair play" through taking part in sports events and PE lessons, they learn how to play within the rules of a particular sport, in addition to this they learn how to accept both winning and losing a match.

Individual Liberty

From a very young age, our children are actively encouraged to consider their opportunities and to recognise how to make choices which are right for them and those around them. The school seeks to create a positive learning environment in which children develop the confidence to voice their opinion and know it will be respectfully considered and valued. We accept that all children make mistakes and our role as educators is to guide the children in learning from their mistakes, in affect learning from the consequence their actions had led too.

Children learn about their rights as young people and how these can be lived out in their lives, with an emphasis on keeping themselves safe, for example through E-safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. From Nursery our pupils learn that their behaviour can have an effect on their own rights and well-being, and those of others. All members of the school community, whether they are an adult or a child, are expected to treat each other with respect, along with the readiness to acknowledge that we are all unique, with individual qualities. Celebration Assemblies are open to parents, where a wide range of academic, sporting, musical and community achievements are celebrated. PE competitions and charity days also provide opportunities for children to extend their development of Mutual Respect by working with and supporting others from communities and backgrounds different to their own.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Although St James is situated in an area which lacks cultural diversity, we teach our children about the culturally diverse society across the UK and beyond. We have a broad and balanced RE curriculum, which explores key faiths, their religious practice and culture.

Through cross-curricular work the children learn about other cultures, exploring similarities and differences. We provide a variety of opportunities for pupils to visit places of worship as well as those of cultural interest. We also actively encourage visitors from a range of communities, cultures and organisations into our school.

At St James' CE Academy we actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.