



ST THOMAS CATHOLIC ACADEMIES **TRUST**

British Values Statement

Date of Review: September 2020
Date of Next Review: September 2021

British Values Statement

The Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. The DfE states the need 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values.' These are:

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

As a Catholic community, our ethos is based on the Gospel values of love, respect and tolerance of others. Our Trust mission statement – ***“The glory of God is a human being fully alive”*** recognises that Christ is present in the uniqueness of every child. Following Jesus’ example, we strive for our schools to be places where everyone is equally respected and unconditionally loved.

We are committed to serving all within our community and local area. In so doing, we reinforce British values regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democratic values are an explicit part of the ethos in each school. All adults listen to the views of the pupils and value their opinions. Pupils are taught to listen to and respect the views of others. Pupils have further opportunity to experience democracy in action through elections for pupil leadership roles, and have their voices heard. Parents and carers also have the opportunity to express their views through regular parent voice surveys.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of laws and rules are consistently reinforced in the classroom, as well as through school assemblies. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws and that they are there for individual protection as well as the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used. Five golden rules are used throughout school. Assemblies and discussions in class focus on recognising right from wrong. For more information, please see the Behaviour Policy available each school’s website.

Individual Liberty:

Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices, within a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others through our Religious Education curriculum and PSHE lessons in particular. E-safety teaching enables them to make choices in a safe manner.

Mutual Respect:

Our school’s ethos and behaviour policy are based on Gospel values. Our mission statement – Learning, achieving and growing together with Jesus – recognises that Jesus is our greatest teacher. Following His example, we strive for our school to be a place where everyone is equally respected and unconditionally loved. Assemblies constantly promote respect for

others, acting with kindness and the importance of good manners. All pupils are taught to respect others, to communicate honestly and openly with one another, and to play and work fairly. Pupils work collaboratively and value the opinions of others.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

As a Catholic worshipping community, pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum and the 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 ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. Members of different faiths or religions are invited to school to share their knowledge and enhance learning within assemblies and in class.