

British Values

In 2013 the Department for Education said

“Keeping our children safe and ensuring schools prepare them for life in modern Britain could not be more important. This change is an important step towards ensuring we have a strong legal basis for intervening in those schools where this is an issue.”

British values are considered by the government to be

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

The promotion of ‘British values’ is central to Catholic education because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

At Our Lady and St Edwards these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. The children have the chance to elect a representative from each class that they feel will represent their classes views. The school council have been involved in organising fund raising events such as non-uniform days.

Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws, whether they are 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 assemblies. 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. Children are taught to distinguish right from wrong by using the example of Christ when dealing with behaviour that is not acceptable. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. Year 6 take part in Safer Cycling activities where they learn about responsible road use.

Individual Liberty

Pupils within Our Lady and St Edwards Primary are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We encourage pupils to see themselves as unique individuals able to make a unique contribution to building community. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to know and understand their rights and responsibilities, receiving advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through discussions of E-Safety, class and whole school responsibilities. 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.

Mutual respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Pupils and staff alike model respect. The school promotes respect for others and this is reinforced through assemblies, our classroom and learning environments as well as extra-curricular activities such as sport. Our school's ethos and behaviour policy are based on Gospel values, with the important commandment being, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. In line with our commitment to democracy, pupils are always able to voice their opinions as we foster an environment where they can debate ideas and are safe to disagree with each other. We work hard to promote anti-bullying through a focus on strategies to enable respect for difference and tolerance. As a Catholic worshipping community, pupils are equipped with the ability to develop positive values and understand their own beliefs within a culturally diverse society. We give our pupils the opportunities to experience such diversity within the wider community through visits, for example, to the local Mosque. Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued.

Monthly Values

Each month we have a focus on a particular value. We use assembly time to launch the value and discuss with pupils. We also promote the value in class and through our daily interactions. It has a whole school focus with pupils being awarded a certificate in the celebration assembly. Parents are informed through the school newsletter and are encouraged to work with their children at home.