

St. Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School

British Values Policy



"I came so that you may have life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10

St Michael Catholic Primary School and Nursery is a Catholic family of faith following the teachings of Christ. We strive to create an environment where all members of our school community respect the values of: Church, Independence, Resilience, Caring, Learning and Enjoyment for all. Belief in these values will nurture all as individuals and instil in them the confidence to meet their full potential, providing them with the best grounding for their future place in an ever-changing world.

Policy Date	September 2026
Signed by Head Teacher	Mrs N Collins
Review Date	September 2027

Introduction

At St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School, we uphold and teach pupils about British Values as directed under Ofsted guidance, which states that schools should:

"Promote tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (or those of no faith), cultures and lifestyles; and support and help, through their words, actions and influence within the school and more widely in the community, to prepare children and young people positively for life in modern Britain."

The Department for Education identifies the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Schools are expected to actively promote these values as part of pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development and to prepare children for life in modern Britain.

The promotion of British Values is central to Catholic education because these values reflect the Christian principles upon which our society is founded.

At St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School, we recognise the importance of helping pupils flourish not only academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. This ensures they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens who can make the strongest possible contribution to the Common Good.

We teach the importance of British Values by exploring what it means to live a good life within a framework of Catholic Christian values. Our framework for understanding British Values draws on the example of Jesus and His welcome and inclusion of all, which is developed through Catholic Social Teaching.

We provide an education that focuses on the formation of the whole person and on each individual's vocation and purpose in life. We place a significant emphasis on celebrating individuality and difference within our communities and on our calling to work for the Common Good in the service of others.

Our Catholic ethos, which includes Christian and British Values, shapes how we work together and with our wider community.

Promoting British Values also forms an important part of our safeguarding culture. In line with the current Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales, pupils are encouraged to develop resilience, critical thinking skills, respect for others and an appreciation of diversity. Through our curriculum, collective worship, assemblies and wider school experiences, pupils learn how to stay safe, challenge discrimination, recognise prejudice and contribute positively to society.

Within this framework, it would be impossible to overlook the government's view of British Values expressed as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

Fundamental British Values

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Democracy

Democratic values are an explicit part of the ethos at St Michael's. All adults listen to the views of the pupils and value their opinions. Pupils have further opportunities to have their voices heard through our School Council, Prayer Leaders, Sports Champions, Eco Warriors, Anti-Bullying Champions and Forest School Friends.

We demonstrate democracy through:

- Pupil voice
- School Council
- Voting (for example, class prayers, poems, books, games or films during wet play, or Poetry Jam finalists)
- Elections
- Questionnaires on curriculum and Gospel values
- Contribution to school policies, with consultation involving staff, parents and pupils
- Education about community, national and international elections and events in the news
- Teaching pupils about how the UK Parliament, local government and school governance work, including how their views can influence decision-making within the school

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws and rules is consistently reinforced in the classroom and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws, that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities 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. Assemblies and discussions focus on recognising right from wrong.

We demonstrate the rule of law through:

- Our behaviour policy
- School rules and the consequences of breaking them
- Visits from the police and other authorities to reinforce messages about right and wrong
- Teaching about the rules of the Church and God in the RE curriculum, such as the Ten Commandments and the Precepts of the Church

- Ensuring pupils understand that laws in England apply to everyone and that there are both civil and criminal consequences

Individual Liberty

Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices within a safe and supportive environment. Developing self-esteem and self-confidence is vital. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights effectively. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others, especially through our Gospel values. E-safety teaching enables them to make choices in a safe manner.

We demonstrate individual liberty through:

- An inclusive mission statement
- Promoting respect and good manners
- Reinforcing the value of everyone's opinions in class discussions
- Maintaining an effective anti-bullying policy
- Emphasising in RE and RHE lessons that every person is unique and "created in the image of God"
- Building educational links with other schools locally and globally
- Supporting charitable works such as CAFOD, Children in Need, NSPCC and local food banks
- Encouraging children to make independent learning choices
- Supporting pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour
- Setting clear, safe boundaries to enable responsible choice-making
- Demonstrating equality and inclusion for all members of the school community
- Assigning key roles and responsibilities to children
- Ensuring pupils are aware of their rights under the Equality Act 2010 and how to exercise these freedoms responsibly

Mutual Respect

Our school's ethos and behaviour policy, based on Gospel values, are central to teaching and learning. Assemblies promote respect for others and the importance of good manners. Pupils are taught self-respect, open communication and fair play. They work collaboratively and value others' opinions.

We demonstrate mutual respect through:

- Our mission statement, ethos, values and beliefs
- The quality of our relationships
- How we treat and speak to one another
- Courtesy and manners, including greetings and acts of kindness
- Looking for what is good in others as a starting point
- Buddying systems
- Pupil leadership and responsibilities

- Worship records
- Alternative faith studies within the RE curriculum
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect on cultural, faith and individual differences
- Challenging discriminatory language and behaviour

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 the Religious Education curriculum and the spiritual life of the school. Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for every person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

We demonstrate acceptance of other faiths and beliefs through:

- Our inclusive mission statement
- Welcoming and valuing those of other faiths and none in our school community
- Teaching pupils about other religious traditions to promote understanding and respect
- Highlighting Jesus' example of tolerance, such as in the stories of the Good Samaritan and the Woman at the Well
- RHE and PSHE lessons
- Addressing discrimination and prejudice through teaching, story, drama and discussion
- Maintaining effective equalities and accessibility policies
- Ensuring pupils understand the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and know how to recognise and challenge prejudice and discrimination

Integration with Catholic Values

As a Catholic school, we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape pupils' character and moral perspective through the teachings of the Church. Our focus on Gospel Values helps pupils develop an awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today and provides the foundations for a successful and productive life.

Our Gospel Values inspire us to follow in Jesus' footsteps by being:

- Eloquent and Truthful
- Learned and Wise
- Curious and Active
- Intentional and Prophetic
- Grateful and Generous
- Attentive and Discerning

Through our curriculum, we teach modules about democracy, civic responsibility, rules and laws, the monarchy, equality, values and virtues, environmental awareness and

understanding of other faiths. British Values are embedded throughout the curriculum, assemblies, pastoral care and the wider school culture.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and the Local Governing Body to ensure that it remains relevant, effective and reflective of current legislation, safeguarding requirements, national guidance and the distinctive Catholic ethos of the school.

The governing body has overall responsibility for ensuring that British Values are actively promoted and embedded throughout all aspects of school life.