



# Promoting British Values Policy

St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy  
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy



## *Our Vision* *Many Hearts, one Accord*

*"Through the strength of God's love and the power of prayer  
we are guided to do whatever He tells us. Many hearts,  
one accord, we grow and learn together for life to build the kingdom of God.*

(School Mission Statement)

### Context

All schools must provide a curriculum that is broadly based, balanced and meets the needs of all pupils. Under section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and the Academies Act 2010, a PSHE curriculum:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

### Introduction

As part of our curriculum we want to ensure that our learners have a shared respect for what makes our school community special within the context of what being a responsible member of the world beyond them means.

### Intent

In accordance with Our Catholic faith and the Department for Education, we aim to actively promote British values in school to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance and 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.

The Key Values are:

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

### Implementation

We value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all our pupils and their families and plan a variety of events and learning experiences to celebrate them whilst also reinforcing to

our children what it means to be 'British'. We do this by reinforcing our curriculum themes which have strong links to the Geography and History of Britain and the wider world from which our children learn tolerance and respect for all. We celebrate national events that reflect important landmarks in shaping our nation.

We will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

The school has daily worship/assemblies which uphold traditional values of empathy, respect, tolerance and reflect the Catholic ethos. These are also taught within weekly PHSE and RE lessons and in an informal nature throughout the school day.

### **Democracy**

Each year the children decide upon their class rules and their rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the class rules ensuring that expectations and therefore behaviours are agreed, known and permeate all aspects of school life. In all subjects we often have class votes, using a tally chart system to determine all manner of class activities. Children are often given the chance to self-evaluate and to comment upon their tasks to inform future lessons and teachers planning.

We have an active school council which meets each half- term. The members of the School Council are democratically elected from within their own class Years 2 to 6. To achieve success in this area is an honour and the children take part in writing manifestos and secret ballots to establish the successful candidate. These democratically elected school council members liaise with their peers and listen carefully at organised meetings. The concerns and suggestions of the class are then brought to the formal School Council Meeting which is supported by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The school council have been involved in gathering opinion about school issues such as which charities to support and playtime improvements. School council members have been taught to implement a 'majority rule' when voting on particular issues. In all classes and in all areas we promote the right to freedom of speech. They also vote and select the end of year 100% attendance trip. The School Council deliver assemblies such as Anti-Bullying and work to complete an action plan, of their own creation, throughout their year in office. They attend staff meetings to share their action plan and they visit parliament. We are also members of the UK Parliament Teacher network.

Our PSHE provision 'Jigsaw' was specifically chosen because of the quality of the intention of the programme. All classes follow The Jigsaw Charter:

- We take turns to speak

- We use kind and positive words
- We listen to each other
- We have the right to pass

We only use names when giving compliments and being positive

We respect each other's privacy (confidentiality)

Parents have planned opportunities to voice their opinions and there is an 'open door' policy.

### **The Rule of Law**

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.

Expectations are reinforced regularly and opportunities are sought frequently to praise positive choices.

Keeping safe when using the internet is regularly discussed with children in computing lessons and in assemblies. On-line safety is a feature of every year groups computing provision and an area we actively discuss at every opportunity. All members of the school community sign our Acceptable Use Policy and pledge to use the internet safely. Pupils modelling behaviour consistent with the school's high expectation are regularly recognised and used as role models to others. The Class Charter sets out expected behaviour and associated rights in each class. PSHE circle time is used as an opportunity to discuss difficult situations that benefit from whole class discussion.

Opportunities are provided regularly for children and staff to participate or spectate in sporting activities which represent good examples of fairness, rules and etiquette in sport for example Multi Skills. Extra-curricular clubs emphasise why rules and boundaries are necessary to ensure safety

The St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace Home-School agreement sets out the contract between the school, the child and their parents.

The school has very good links with authorities such as the Police and Fire Service, who visit and help to reinforce the Rule of Law and educate our children on ways to keep themselves safe.

### **Tolerance**

Within St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace we constantly promote tolerance towards others from different backgrounds, cultures, languages, faiths and beliefs.

Our Religious Education syllabus and Personal, Social, Health and Emotional curriculum reinforce our commitment towards a tolerant society. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and

the school. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. At every opportunity we explore the similarities between religions and cultures. Within RE we dedicate each half-term to a focus on a particular quality that we wish our children to develop. During our Values and Virtues assembly pupils are asked to reflect upon the way in which we display these qualities which challenge us to be Curious & Active, Intentional & Prophetic, Grateful & Generous, Attentive & Discerning, Compassionate & Loving and Faith-filled & Hopeful

Our Geography curriculum examines other countries and their cultures. We build a firm knowledge of our own country and our own locality within it. We recognise that to appreciate others one must first understand oneself.

At St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace we will actively challenge pupils, staff, parents or anyone in the school community expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

### **Mutual respect**

Children learn that their behaviour has an impact on their rights and those of others. There are many opportunities to develop SMSC (Social, Emotional, Spiritual and Cultural Education) across the curriculum for example through R.E., PSHE, PE, Art, Music, History, Geography, Science and English. Children are encouraged to work in collaboration as much as possible either in their class, with other year groups, as mediators, and with other schools in sport or at music and dance festivals.

All members of the school community treat each other with respect. We publish all our behaviour policies on the website and parents, pupils and staff sign a Home-School agreement setting out our expectations. Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. High levels of mutual respect are demonstrated daily in the excellent relationships between staff and pupils. We participate in anti-bullying week in November and remind ourselves of the key anti-bullying messages throughout the year.

St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academies are diverse schools. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

In class, we listen to a range of stories about different faiths and culture. Throughout all areas of the curriculum, children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others.

## **Individual Liberty**

At St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and empowering environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; for example, in computing through our approach to Online Safety.

At St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace pupils are given the freedom to make many choices, be this in class, through their choice of learning challenges, a wide range of extra-curricular activities, through fundraising or their choice of sporting opportunities, for example.

Safeguarding our pupils and staff is paramount and PSHE/e-Safety lessons equip pupils with the skills to make safe choices. On-Line safety is taught in every year group throughout the school and is discussed at all opportunities.

## **Black History**

At St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace, children are taught about the history of black people. Typically, the achievements of inspiring black role models such as athletes, authors, poets, actors and musicians are celebrated, too. Focusing on black history heroes is a great way to celebrate the contributions of Black People to society, art and culture.

**Black History Month UK** is a celebration of black history that takes place 1-31 October every year. This year (2021), the 34th UK Black History Month will be celebrated. The first was in 1987.

As a school we believe, it is essential to ensure that children know what Black History Month actually is and why it is celebrated. Explaining this to children might seem straightforward, but there's actually a lot for young learners to unpack and understand. Although some aspects of British history (particularly those beyond living memory) are difficult to teach young children, focusing on arts and culture is a great way to help children learn about more recent events - post-war history, particularly.

### **How is it taught?**

A simple, straightforward approach to teaching about Black History Month UK is best for younger children in Years 1 and 2. A quick discussion about why it's good to see a range of people with different skin tones and appearances in books, TV programmes and films will get children thinking about why visibility of minority ethnic groups, including Black British people, is important.

Looking at inspiring role models is also a great way to teach lower KS2 children about the discrimination that historically significant black figures experienced, and how they overcame this adversity.

Children in Years 5 and 6 (upper Key Stage 2) are more experienced historians, and as such, ready to be challenged with some deeper learning about Black British history.

Learning about how communities of black Caribbeans arose in areas of Britain after the end of the Second World War—and Windrush—is a great way to teach children about how modern Britain has been shaped by black culture.

Therefore Black History is taught through a differentiated, age-appropriate approach because we as a school believe that teaching the meaning of Black History Month is necessary to ensure all primary children can learn something - and celebrate Black British history, too.

### **Black History through the Curriculum**

In 2020 an education campaign was launched to get Black British History embedded in the national curriculum and taught in schools in England all year round, as an alternative to the limitation of Black History Month. Therefore at St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace we are committed to ensure that there is diversity across the curriculum throughout the academic year which is reflected in many different ways including:

- Assemblies
- Displays
- Art
- History
- Music

Class texts and reading books

At St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace we believe that learning about history helps us understand the world today, and will show children how events in the past have shaped the world we live in. It will also help our school be a more understanding place.

### **Impact**

- Children will demonstrate and apply the British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Mutual respect, Tolerance and individual Liberty.
- Children will become healthy and responsible members of society
- Children will be on their journey preparing them for life and work in modern Britain.

- Children will have an understanding of the history of black people and their contributions to society.

This policy was agreed by staff on: September 2021

This policy was approved by School Committee on: September 2021

This policy will be reviewed by the School Committee on: September 2024

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of School Committee