



Together we love to learn
and learn to love

St. Mary's CE Infant School Promoting British Values

St Mary's CE Infant school is committed to inspiring every individual. We embed the Christian value of love across school life because we believe that a person who feels loved, secure and happy can flourish. We encourage everyone to achieve their potential, develop their talents, celebrate their uniqueness, and rejoice in their relationships with others.

"Do everything in love"

1 Corinthians 16:14

February 2020

The Promoting British Values document highlights the need to educate pupils about the fundamental British Values.

It will be used by all staff and pupils as everyone in school has a responsibility in relation to promoting British Values.



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Promoting British Values at St. Mary's CE School

At St Mary's we promote British Values through our school vision statement, our curriculum and teaching and learning strategies, and the enrichment activities that are provided for our children.

As a school we believe in educating for dignity and respect and have used the Church of England's Vision for Education, 'Deeply Christian Serving the Common Good' (2016) as our reference.

'Ensuring our children are kept safely from harm and educated in an environment where all God's children are valued is of the highest priority . . . '

The DfE have recently reinforced the need to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of:

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

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated in "Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools". (November 2014).



British values underpin our school ethos and are reinforced regularly and actively promoted in the following ways:



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Democracy

- All staff opinions are valued and adults are encouraged to share their ideas to sustain outstanding practice and to provide a forward looking workforce
- Children have opportunities to have their voices heard through pupil questionnaires, PSHE activities and class discussions
- Members of the School Council are elected annually through democratic voting. Their photographs are displayed in the hall so that all children know who their representatives are
- The School Council meets fortnightly to discuss any issues that have been raised in class or highlighted through the pupils' suggestion box
- The children in each class vote for their representatives
- Pupil views are taken into account when new initiatives and lunch menus are being considered
- Children are also encouraged to vote on other issues that are relevant to them e.g. what class treat they will have
- Democracy is promoted through the curriculum e.g. children are encouraged to listen to and value the ideas and views of others, to take turns to speak and to respond to other appropriately
- All children take part in the Witney Remembrance Service by laying a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the Witney Primary Schools and singing.

The Rule of Law

- Positive behaviour strategies provide clear boundaries and the development of self- discipline
- All children are expected to abide by the school's happy rules as outlined in the Behaviour Policy:
 - **Be kind**
 - **Be helpful**
 - **Listen**
 - **Take turns**
 - **Be welcoming**
- Through assemblies and PSHE lessons, children develop their understanding of the need for rules and the importance of everyone adhering to these
- Year 2 PSHE theme for the autumn term is 'Rules'
- There is a consistent reward system used throughout the school by all adults
- Children are rewarded for good behaviour in accordance with the school's behaviour policy and know how poor behaviour will be dealt with
- The importance of laws in school, at home and in the wider world are consistently reinforced during the school day, through behaviour management and in school assemblies and visits
- Children are expected to behave inside and outside school in an exemplary manner
- Training for staff on managing and supporting children's behaviour ensures consistency throughout the school and at all times during the school day
- Parents sign the 'Home-School Agreement' when their child starts school which clearly states our school rules and responsibilities and expectations of staff, governors and parents
- Expectations of children's behaviour are modelled by adults e.g. taking a pride in and looking after our school environment (including resources), the presentation of work e.g. in books and



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- displayed on walls, taking pride in our own appearance e.g. looking smart and how we talk to each other
- All pupils understand that there are consequences for breaking rules and they know the school sanctions
- There are planned curriculum visits from public services such as Fire Brigade and the Police Service to reinforce the message and explain the importance of adhering to and the consequences of breaking laws which govern our land



Individual Liberty

- Children are encouraged to make choices from Reception onwards secure in the knowledge that they are safe
- They are encouraged to develop independence e.g. in Reception they learn to dress, use the toilet and select resources independently and as they move through the school they are encouraged to come into school, work and organise their belongings independently
- They are given opportunities to make choices in the inside and outside learning environments
- All school activities and classrooms are inclusive and encourage pupils to be self-disciplined
- The school provides strong boundaries within a safe and secure environment
- Children are encouraged to voice their opinions and are guided to making safe choices throughout their learning including PSHE and anti-bullying lessons
- Year 1 PSHE theme for the autumn term is 'Choices'
- Year 2 PSHE theme for the summer term is 'Rights and responsibilities'
- All children are taught e-safety rules to keep them safe on the internet
- The Christian vision of St Mary's is founded upon an understanding of every member of the school community as a unique part of God's creation, worthy of respect and deserving to be



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- nurtured in all their God given talents
- Each child is loved for who they are and for what they can become and enabled to achieve their full potential, for their own good and for the good of others
- Through our school's vision statement and teaching across the curriculum, particularly in PSHE and collective worship children are taught about personal responsibility and having the courage to stand up for what is right
- Language relating to choices and consequences is reinforced by adults
- Pupils support charities which support and stand up for the rights and needs of others e.g. The Besom and TEAMS4U
- Bullying is not tolerated, and the school has a robust anti-bullying policy
- Children are encouraged to discuss and debate, expressing their opinions and respecting the rights of others to differing view points



Mutual respect

- The school's vision statement and Happy Rules provide the foundations for an inclusive school
- In previous years, a number of children have represented St. Mary's at the Witney Council's Commonwealth Day where they will be part of the flag raising ceremony
- Reflective time in lessons, circle times and collective worship provide opportunities for all to consider their contribution to their own well-being and to the well-being of others in the school
- Children learn that their behaviour has an effect on others, so all members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect
- Staff model respect for all
- School values are reinforced through displays, newsletters, website, collective worship and in curriculum activities
- Each child is seen as unique and individual needs are recognised and met by both by adults and children



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- Diversity is celebrated e.g. inviting visitors from other faiths and cultures to talk to classes about their customs
- The implementation of the school's inclusion policy ensures that all children with additional needs are fully integrated within classes
- Pupils work in a variety of groupings within classes and work and play with children from other classes in a variety of settings (e.g. after school clubs, whole school trips)
- We have a broad, vibrant curriculum that explores links between the past and present, local as well as distant localities, people of different faiths and cultures
- The curriculum and classroom environment are adapted to meet the needs of individual children e.g. an area was created where a child with multiple complex needs could learn effectively
- St Mary's is a welcoming environment to which staff and children welcome all visitors respectfully

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs is promoted through the teaching of the Discovery RE scheme. Children learn about different religions, their beliefs, places of worship and festivals. Their learning is displayed in classrooms and through class RE books
- There are opportunities for the children to support local and global charities such as Down's Syndrome Oxford and the Save The Children
- Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge
- All children know who they can talk to if they have any concerns
- All racist or bullying incidents are reported however the school has very few bullying or racial incidents; pupils feel secure and happy
- As part of our RE teaching we raise awareness of other faiths in order to further children's understanding e.g. celebrations of Diwali and Hanukkah
- Children's cultures and traditions are explored and celebrated e.g. Chinese New Year
- We have strong links with the local church and diocese
- We have a strong Equal Opportunities Policy and Equality Objectives are published on the school's website
- The staff will actively challenge any pupils, each other or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values.
- Leaders and governors are vigilant to any obsessive attitudes or behaviour which might give cause for concern and will notify appropriate authorities for advice