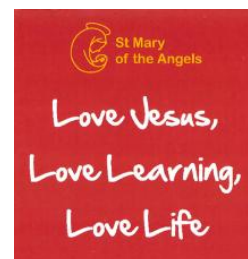


St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

British Values Policy 2025-2026



Love Jesus

Love learning

Love life

This policy builds on the previous policy and will be reviewed in May 2026

British values

The Department of Education states that schools must “enforce a clear and rigorous expectation to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.” This is supported by Ofsted, who within the Revised Framework (May 2019) suggest that inspectors will judge the effectiveness in which the provider prepares learners for life in modern Britain by equipping them to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society. Furthermore, schools should be developing their understanding of fundamental British values, developing their understanding and appreciation of diversity, celebrating what we have in common and promoting respect for the different protected characteristics as defined in law.

At St Mary’s, we embrace the fundamentals of British values as they are deeply rooted in our own Christian beliefs: beliefs on which we build our faith and schools with a deep emphasis on every child fulfilling their God given potential. We recognise the importance of helping our children to flourish academically, but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally ensuring they are fully prepared for life in a modern, multi-cultural British society. In doing so, we believe we are developing young people who will go out and make a positive change for the Common Good of all.

We use a range of sources to teach the importance of British values, each underpinned by our Catholic framework, The Way, The Truth, The Life. This provides children with the context and meaning for understanding why British Values are important by drawing on examples of Jesus’ teachings.

We understand the Fundamental British Values as:

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

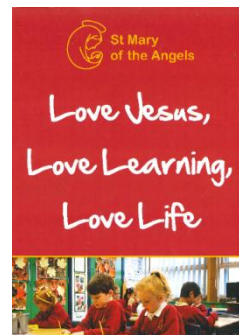
Together, aligned with our Christian values of respect, compassion, co-operation and stewardship, we reflect on our place and purpose in the world. We simultaneously celebrate individuality and difference within our communities and share the calling to work for the Common Good, in the service of others. The examples that follow are just some of the ways

that 'British values' are embedded into our everyday life and curriculum at St Mary of the Angels:

British Values at St Mary of the Angels

The government set out its definition of 'British values' in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011), which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalisation of young people. British values are considered by the present government to be democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and 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.

"We are proud that Catholic schools promote values that are both Catholic and British, including: respect for the individual, democracy, individual liberty, respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. Our schools promote cohesion by serving more ethnically diverse and poorer communities. Catholic schools provide high standards of education which are popular with parents from all social, economic and faith backgrounds." **Paul Barber (Catholic Education Service 15 December 2014).**



At St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School, we recognise, not only the importance of helping our children to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the Common Good of all.

We teach the importance of British Values by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian Values. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why British values are important. Our framework for understanding British values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all, which is developed in Catholic Social Teaching.

At St Mary's, we provide an education which focuses on the formation of the whole person and on our vocation and purpose in life. We place a significant emphasis on the celebration of individuality and difference within our communities and our calling to work for the Common Good, in the service of others. Our Catholic ethos, which includes Christian and British values, makes a difference to the way we work together and with our wider communities. Within this framework it would be impossible to overlook the government's view of British values expressed as 'democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.'

Our VALUES FOR LIFE programme runs across KS2 and celebrates the nurturing work around our British Values that goes on at St Mary of the Angels. This is an enrichment opportunity open to all children in KS2, but we particularly support vulnerable children to engage with this programme. The fruits of this programme are celebrated in displays around school.

DEMOCRACY	
We have a strong and active school council	<i>Pupils elect an active School Council, who have a budget, each September and work closely with the SLT “The school provides very rich experiences that help pupils to develop a strong and caring character and help them to understand the difference between right and wrong.” Ofsted 2024.</i>
Children take part in active debating	<i>P4C Lessons across KS2 Oracy focus 2024-2026 Example Bullfighting Debate- Y5</i>
Highlighting the development of democratic ideas in history lessons	<i>Study of the Roman Empire in Britain and how civilisation learnt from it, including how democratic ideas started to develop – KS2</i>
Allowing pupils to vote for leaders	<i>Voting for our Junior Recycling Officers and Road Safety Officers, School Council</i>
Ensuring all pupils are listened to by adults	<i>Pupils know that the school keeps them safe. They know whom to go to if they are worried about anything. Pupils told us that there is no bullying in their school.” OFSTED 2019. “They are happy in school and know that they can always go to an adult if they are worried or upset.” S48 RE Inspection</i>
Inviting democratic & public service speakers to the school	<i>Member of Parliament Justin Madders held a discussion with our School Council and visited all classes in 2023 to talk about his role in parliament Work with local Councillors to address matters of local importance, e.g. Cllr Kendrick to develop a safer school entrance gate Working with United Utilities to understand their work in our local area Working with CWAC leaders on safer roads initiatives</i>
Celebrating special times in our democracy	<i>Queen’s 70th Jubilee celebrations 2022, Coronation of King Charles III in 2023,</i>
RULE OF LAW	
Classes creating “class rules”	<i>Each class creates its own rules and expectations of children and staff during transition days. “There is total commitment to living out the Mission Statement in all areas of school life.” (S48 Denominational Inspection.)</i>
Organising visits from the police service to reinforce	<i>We have visits from local public servants, such as fire brigade (fire safety), PCSO (community safety etc) and Network Rail</i>

the message of right and wrong	<i>(danger from the electrical lines situated behind school) which all tell pupils about right and wrong.</i>
Having a clear behaviour policy that is explained to all	<i>"Staff work well with pupils from the school council to set high expectations for behaviour across the school. Pupils understand what is expected of them. They conduct themselves exceptionally well around the school. Pupils work hard and are supportive of each other" Ofsted 2024</i>
Highlighting the rules of the Church and God in the RE curriculum, for example the 10 commandments and the Precepts of the Church	<i>These are taught in our RE scheme and practised daily in school and through weekly Gospel assemblies</i>
INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY	
Encourage students to be independent in their learning	<i>Students have lots of strategies used daily to encourage independence in learning, as demonstrated in our Marking and Feedback Policy, Key Stage 2 children take responsibility for wider school responsibilities e.g. Eco Warriors looking after our sensory garden, School Council Litter Picks.</i>
Provide students with opportunities for reflection as they take responsibility to discerning their vocation	<i>KS2 pupils attended 'retreat' sessions with our local high school to reflect on their spirituality & their futures. ELSA sessions based on social and emotional wellbeing, bereavement Forest School sessions focussed on stewardship mission and environmental responsibility Visits to Colleges and Universities in the local town and city</i>
Having aspirations and aiming high, to achieve your own potential	<i>Year 5 and 6 Ellesmere Port Careers Days at the further education college, working with local industry, other career providers and discussing study & career pathways, links to Chester University</i>
MUTUAL RESPECT AND TOLERANCE	
Having a Mission Statement that is inclusive	<i>devised by staff, pupils, governors and parents, in consultation – parents feedback collated in HTs office; and very positive. Mission statement revisited in September each year to emphasise the importance of the message by all year groups</i>
Constantly promoting respect via good manners	<i>Parental questionnaire 2024, 100% of parents agreed that "St Mary of the Angels helps my child learn how to behave respectfully."</i>

Reinforcing the value of everyone's opinions in class debates	<i>Oracy focus – debate and discuss, public speaking opportunities Ofsted 2019 said “Pupils listen to each other and listen to adults.....pupils really enjoy their education”</i>
Having an effective anti-bullying policy	<i>2024 parental questionnaire statement - “This school deals effectively with bullying.” 99% of parents agreed or strongly agreed. Bullying is discussed in assemblies – with our Safeguarding Governor, termly - and pupils said to inspectors that they know what to do if it happens, and that it's dealt with swiftly. Childline did work on this in school with pupils in 2023. Pupils told Ofsted inspectors in 2024 that there is no bullying in the school, but when things happen they have trusted adults to talk to.</i>
Having active educational links with other schools	<i>Many successful partnership, such as the Ellesmere Port and Neston Sports Partnership, Big Maths, STEM and the Amazing Arts Festival, with many positive learning outcomes for pupils; pupils attend transitions and Science Club in our local high school, with other schools, moderation cluster with group of local schools in English and Maths and RE.</i>
Supporting charitable works	<i>Pupils raise money for a plethora of different charities including Box of Love shoebox appeal, CAFOD, Going Green days, British Legion, Dementia workshops, Macmillan coffee mornings, supporting local foodbanks during harvest, strong connections with Naylor Court Care Home – including throughout COVID-19</i>
Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	<i>We hold celebrations of diversity e.g. multi faith weeks, Loi Krathong festival, Islam, Judaism etc with a prominent display of learning in our atrium - Prayer around the World focus day.) We promote awareness and celebration of festivals in other faiths, e.g. reference in our newsletter for Eid, Assembly notices etc “Global issues...provide children with experiences which enrich further their educational provision; and develop their understanding of, and respect for, other beliefs and cultures.” (S48 Denominational Inspection)</i>
Highlight how Religious Education provides pupils with a deep understanding of their own faith as well as awareness of the faith and traditions of others	<i>In addition to the statements above, the core of our Catholic faith is about tolerance, justice, peace and acceptance. We also teach that Jesus encouraged tolerance, in stories such as The Good Samaritan and learn about different faiths and cultures in Year 5.</i>