

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Policy for British Values

It is the mission of our school to follow the loving example shown by Jesus Christ.

We aim to make our Mission Statement alive by:

- *Working in partnership with parents to provide a happy and secure Christian environment in which the children will develop spiritually, intellectually, socially, physically and emotionally*
- *Providing a wide range of experiences and activities in RE and all subjects of the National Curriculum to stimulate and extend each child fully*
- *Celebrating each person for their individual gifts and talents*
- *Demonstrating a genuine spirit of justice, care and reconciliation*

The Department for Education expects all schools 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.*'

At St. Patrick's we believe that British values are Gospel values.

We value and celebrate the diverse ethnic backgrounds of our pupils, staff and parents. We undertake a variety of events and lessons to learn about other faiths and beliefs and this actively promotes tolerance and respect for the differences in our community and the wider world. British values are taught through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE) and Religious Education (RE). We also teach British values through delivering a broad and balanced curriculum (see 'Overview of British Values and the New Curriculum'. Actively promoting British values also includes challenging opinions or behaviour in school that are contrary to them. At St. Patrick's, British values are reinforced in the following ways:

Democracy is an important value at our school. Adults listen to the views of our pupils and value their opinions. As well as this, pupils have the opportunity to have their voice heard through our School Council. This is a democratically elected group made up of two representatives per class. Members attend regular meetings to discuss issues raised by the different classes and the Council is genuinely able to effect change within the school.

The importance of **laws and rules**, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced at all times. Pupils are taught the value of and reasons for laws: that they govern and protect us; the responsibility that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils at St. Patrick's follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used. At the beginning of each school year, pupils work together to agree their class rules. If rules are broken, children are asked to identify which rule they have broken and to consider the effects on others and themselves. The importance of rules and laws is considered across the curriculum, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules, such as in P.E. lessons. Staff at St. Patrick's promote positive behaviour by following policies consistently. Rewards are given in class and during assembly.

Individual liberty

We believe that in our school everyone has the following rights:

- to feel and be safe
- to learn
- to be treated with respect

Pupils are actively encouraged to be independent learners and to make choices at our school, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. They are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through PSHE and e-Safety lessons. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, e.g. signing up for extra-curricular activities.

Mutual respect

In our school, we respect everyone by recognising that God made us all and that we are different but equally valued. Staff consistently model and promote the behaviours and attitudes that are the foundation of positive relationships based on mutual respect. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. Liturgies and assemblies constantly promote respect for others. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honesty and fair play. During class lessons pupils learn collaboratively and are taught to listen to and value the opinions of others.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

At St. Patrick's, we celebrate diversity within our school as well as in wider society. This is reinforced through our Religious Education curriculum, the spiritual life of our school, PSHE and other areas of the curriculum. During RE lessons, pupils learn about other faiths and members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. In particular, we take every opportunity to celebrate and learn about the different languages, faiths and cultures represented within our school community. Pupils in Key Stage 2 learn French, which includes the study of French culture.

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