

# St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery

## British Values Statement

At St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery our motto *'Praise the Lord in Work, Play and Prayer'* guides all that we do.

In living out our motto we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our characters and our moral perspectives.

At St Michael's we are confident that through our continued focus on the Gospel Values which, grounded in love,

***"...are a guarantee of peace and of collaboration among all citizens in the shared commitment to serving the common good",***

*(Pope John Paul II, 31 October 2004 Angelus Address on the occasion of the signing of the new European Constitution, quoted in 'Christ at the Centre'.)*

all our pupils and staff will develop a deeper awareness and understanding of what it means to be a good citizen here, today. We work together with all members of the school, parish and local community, to embed in our pupils the building blocks of a future successful, happy and productive life in modern Britain.

In particular through our RE, PSHE, History and Geography Curriculums, through our School Council and through promoting the attitude of working together for the Common Good, we are able to make real links between the values of our pupils and the lives of others in their local community, country and the world in general. Through our ethos and curriculum we teach about valuing democracy, civic responsibility, rules and laws, the monarchy. We promote the practice of values and virtues such as equality, mutual respect, justice, environmental responsibility and the tolerant understanding of other faiths.

The Department for Education has introduced a statutory duty for schools actively to promote British Values from September 2014, and to ensure they are taught in schools. The five key British Values are listed as:

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

St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery is committed to serving its community. We recognise the rich, diverse and dynamic nature of the United Kingdom. We also accept our vital role in ensuring that groups or individuals within our Academy are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

We follow equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability,

political or financial status, amongst other factors. St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery is dedicated to preparing pupils for their life beyond the formal curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British Values to all its pupils.

The Academy uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for its pupils.

The following table gives an overview of how our Academy ensures that these values remain at the fore of our work.

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| <p>Democracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pupils become aware of democratic systems. They understand that each elector has a right to choose how to vote and that each must accept the outcome of the process, even if it represents others' views and not their own.</li><li>• Elections for a girl and a boy school councillor for each year group, from Year 1 to Year 6, to attend School Council.</li><li>• House Captains are elected through a democratic process.</li><li>• School Council members ascertain the views of their peers on a range of aspects of school provision and these views are taken into account when decisions by Leaders are made.</li><li>• Pupil and Parent questionnaires are used regularly to gather the views of all members of the school community and responses inform on-going work in school.</li><li>• The election of Parent Representatives to the Academy Committee is conducted according to relevant guidelines.</li></ul> |
| <p>The rule of law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The School Behaviour Code was devised following consultation with pupils and parents.</li><li>• All pupils are taught the reasons why rules for good conduct - in school and out - are important, so that they value and respect the school rules.</li><li>• Rewards and Sanctions for following the rules or choosing not to follow the rules are embedded and used consistently by all.</li><li>• There is a fair and firm response to any lapse in behaviour.</li><li>• Pupils are given opportunities to meet with members of the wider community to develop a greater understanding of and respect for the use of rules and for civil and criminal law in our society.</li></ul>   |
| <p>Individual liberty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pupils are given the opportunity to make choices in all aspects of their work and life in school.</li><li>• Pupils know and respect that individuals have a right to be different and to hold different opinions and views.</li><li>• Pupils show respect for the views of others and are taught how to 'agree to disagree'.</li><li>• Pupils know how to analyse, articulate and put forward their ideas, for example to their Council Representatives.</li><li>• The school actively deals with the issues of Bullying in all its forms (including the issue of Cyber Bullying).</li></ul>   |

### Mutual respect

- The school's Catholic ethos is central to promoting respect and tolerance.
- We help pupils to share and celebrate their unique identities and equality in the eyes of God. This promotes recognition that differences in views can be a strength.
- The Anti-Bullying stratagem runs through all aspects of the school in particular through our ethos, curriculum and extra- curricular activities.
- Children understand how to tackle and prevent bullying and are taught to seek help straight away from others in and out of school.
- Curriculum content seeks to develop deeper understanding of the multi cultural, multi faith world in which we live.
- Pupils taking part in team sports learn that, regardless of whether they have won or lost, they should treat opposing teams with respect.
- Good behaviour and attitudes are positively encouraged by our systems of awards.

### Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

- Gospel values are put into action so that pupils learn that we should recognise Christ in everyone we meet, whatever their personal characteristics.
- As a school with a religious character we actively promote respect for the Catholic Faith and, in the same way, respect for other world faiths. Parents who hold different faiths appreciate this ethos and are happy for their children to attend our school.
- Similarities between religions are explored and celebrated and value is given to major religious celebrations.
- Pupils learn and understand that each faith has a set of values; that all show a 'good way' to live and to guide the believers' responses towards the world and others.

This statement will be reviewed after 3 years, or sooner if advised by the Principal or the Chair of the Academy Committee.

Statement approved by the Academy Committee *12<sup>th</sup> March 2015*

Signed *R.E. Watkins* *Chair of the Academy Committee*