

# ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



## British Values Policy

### Our Mission Statement

*"Do everything with love."*

*(St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians 16:14)*

### **This means that we will....**

- Show our love for Jesus in everything we say and do
- Respect everyone by recognising that God made us all different but equally valued.
- Strive for excellence and find ways to share, develop and celebrate our talents.
- Promote a safe, happy and enjoyable environment.
- Actively support our school, parish and the wider community.

**Ratified by FGB**  
**Review Date**

**July 2025**  
**July 2026**

The Department for Education reinforces 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 and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.” At St Paul’s, 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 explicitly through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE), Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) and Religious Education (RE). We also teach British Values through delivering a broad and balanced curriculum which includes real opportunities for exploring these values. We have achieved the following external accreditations which demonstrate evidence of our commitment to British Values:

OFSTED grade of ‘Good’ for ‘Personal development, behaviour and welfare’ – July 2018

Religious Education – Validation Report July 2019 – Overall Effectiveness = ‘Good’ and Moral Development = ‘Good’.

At St Paul’s, British Values are reinforced in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

Democracy is an important value at our school. All adults listen to the views of our pupils and value their opinions. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voice heard through our School Council. The elections of members are based on pupil votes. The School Council members attend meetings held every fortnight and then feedback to their classes at a class meeting. The School Council offer children in their class opportunities to have their say throughout the year eg. Voting on activities to be ran by the Play Leaders.

At the beginning of each school year, pupils work together to agree their class rules which are based around our ‘St Paul’s Principles’. Children work as a team to discuss how they can model these ‘principles’ in and out of their classroom.

Children are taught about democracy and the role it plays within British society through Parliament Week where our children learn about the role of the British government and links to local and national elections, as well as our Democracy Day where children have a day dedicated to having their voice heard through their voting choices.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of law and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced at all times. Our policy to Promote Positive Relationships is aligned to our St Paul’s Principles.

- Positive
- Ambitious
- Understanding
- Leader
- Supportive

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibility that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Year groups have visits from local police and fire services to help them to follow the laws and keep themselves safe in person and online.

Staff at St Paul's promote positive behaviour by following policies consistently. Rewards are given at class level and during Celebration assembly on a Friday. We also take a restorative approach to resolve school conflict and to prevent further harm. Children identify their own mistakes and have time to reflect and grow from these. If rules are broken, children are given a 'principle' to think about and to ensure that this connection is made and understood.

### **Individual Liberty**

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 clubs at lunch time and at the end of the day. In some lessons, they are able to choose the level of challenge and they can choose a method to record their learning.

### **Mutual Respect**

Our school ethos and policies are underpinned by our Mission Statement, "Do Everything with Love." This means that we will "respect everyone by recognising that God made us all different but equally valued". Our St Paul's Principles help us to live out our mission and determine how we live as a community at St. Paul's. They are highly visible around the school and can be seen in classrooms and in the hall. Liturgies, assemblies and our relational group circles constantly promote respect for others. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honesty and fair play. During lessons pupils learn collaboratively and value others' opinions. We celebrate the cultures and nationalities of all children and families at St Paul's and the languages we speak are displayed within each classroom.

### **Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

As a Catholic worshipping community, pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum, the spiritual life of our school, PSHE, RSE 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. Pupils in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 learn Spanish and learn about the culture of Spain. In PSHE and RSE we learn about other cultures & religions and their beliefs regarding relationships, social norms and marriage. The children are taught to be respectful of all cultures and beliefs, even those different to our own. We also celebrate all the different faiths and religions in our school through our Culture Day, where our children, families and staff share different aspects of their culture through a range of activities.

### **Catholic Social Teaching**

At St Paul's we have our own set of 'Catholic Social Teaching' values and we have shaped these to reflect our personalised curriculum: God's creation; We are one; We all matter; Fairness; Rights and responsibilities; and Justice and Power. We try to intertwine British Values with these. For example, during our topic: Justice and Power, we explore the British Value – 'The Rule of Law' and 'Democracy' across different year groups to enable children to understand the importance of Law and valuing each other's votes in democracy.