



The Holy Family Catholic School

British Values guide for parents

What are 'fundamental British values'?

Schools are required to provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. As part of this requirement, schools are expected to actively promote fundamental British values.

The government defines these as:

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

What does this mean for my child?

Schools' programmes for learning about fundamental British values are designed to prepare children and young people for life in modern Britain.

This includes helping pupils understand:

- The importance of combatting discrimination
- How we can influence decision-making by taking part in democratic processes like voting and petitioning
- Our freedom under British law to choose different faiths and beliefs
- That the law is there to keep us safe

What does this look like in our school?

Democracy

- ❖ An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- ❖ Reinforced in PSHE lessons
- ❖ Ensuring that all pupils are listened to by adults
- ❖ Children hold positions of responsibility within the school

What does this look like in our school?

The Rule of Law

- ❖ An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety
- ❖ An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence.
- ❖ Having a clear behaviour policy that is explained to all and is consistently reinforced by all staff.
- ❖ Pupils are taught the rules and expectations of the school. These are discussed and reinforced in assemblies, class time, in PSHE, at break and lunch time and are referred to by all school staff, teachers and non-teachers alike.
- ❖ Pupils are taught the value and the reasons behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken

What does this look like in our school?

Individual Liberty

- ❖ An understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- ❖ Pupils are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment.
- ❖ We encourage students to see themselves as unique individuals able to make a unique contribution to our community.
- ❖ All pupils are encouraged to participate in all school activities.
- ❖ Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through our exploration of E-Safety

What does this look like in our school?

Mutual respect

- ❖ An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.
- ❖ Having a vision statement that is inclusive.
- ❖ Constantly promoting respect for others and good manners.
- ❖ Reinforcing the value of everyone's opinions in class debates.
- ❖ Having an effective anti-bullying policy and E safety policy.
- ❖ Emphasising in RE and PSHE lessons that every person is unique
- ❖ Building strong links with other schools.
- ❖ Fundraising and supporting a variety of charities.
- ❖ Links with our local community

FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

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

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***Will my child still be able to express his/her faith at school?***

Absolutely. One of the fundamental British values is respect and tolerance of people with different faiths. British law protects people's freedom to hold their own beliefs.

Any prejudice or discrimination towards pupils on the basis of their faith goes against the fundamental British values and will not be tolerated.

- ***How will this affect my child's lessons?***

The curriculum provides lots of opportunities to look at fundamental British values. Your child may already have some experience of this in lessons such as religious education (RE) and personal, social and health education (PSHE).

Schools look out for these opportunities and encourage children to think about how the values link into the topics they are studying.

- ***Will there be major changes to the school's ethos?***

Our school's ethos already includes many aspects of the government's fundamental British values.

Promoting fundamental British values will reinforce, not change, our current ethos.

Where to go for more information

Contact the school

- If you have any questions or concerns about British values and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

- External information

The following guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) may be useful for further information:

Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools, GOV.UK – DfE

- https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf