



## **Fundamental British Values**

### **Background**

The government set out their definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. Due to recent events, these were reinforced in September 2014. These new regulations will sit alongside the requirements of the Equalities Act, which also applies to all types of school.

Schools are expected to focus on, and be able to show, how our work with pupils is effective in embedding fundamental British values.

### **Promoting British values at St Richard's School**

We agree with the Department for Education's five-part definition of British values:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

St Richard's children come across these values in all sorts of ways as they experience life at school. How we provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding that underpins personal development of children has been enhanced by these explicit values.

Listed below are some examples of how we promote these values in our school community:

### **Democracy**

We have long had captains' meetings and boarders' meetings and questionnaires where the pupil voice is heard. Mock elections and responsibilities to lead are also occasional but well embedded in activities, as captains' listen to the views of others. More recently an elected school council plays a role in our school. They are elected by their class peers and are involved in improving the experience of St Richard's.

Pupil questionnaires and interviews are also conducted throughout the year. We know that the school council and the active participation of our pupils will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.

## **The Rule of Law**

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to.

The school rules are read by the Headmaster at the start of each term. The understanding of their importance and why they are in place is consistently reinforced through PSHE, assemblies and our curriculum. We welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, war veterans, the fire brigade and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.

## **Individual Liberty**

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive nurturing culture in our school, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. In lessons, learning tasks are often left for the child to decide upon. We encourage children to choose the task that will challenge them, giving them more freedom to determine their own learning. We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. In PSHE and lessons we educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely. We believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives.

## **Mutual respect**

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. Pupils learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the school and in the classrooms.

## **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

There is appreciation of cultural richness and diversity of faith and belief in the curriculum. We strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.