

# BRITISH VALUES POLICY

St John's Church of England Primary  
School



Approved	Date: September 2024
Review	Date: September 2025

Through faith, love, kindness and respect our St John's family will flourish and grow

Our government believes that, 'British society is founded on fundamental values and principles, which all those living in the UK should respect and support. These values are reflected in the responsibilities, rights and privileges of being a British citizen or permanent resident of the UK. They are based on history and traditions and are protected by law, customs and expectations.

We support the values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs and these are embedded within our curriculum. At St John's School we embed the values of Achieve, Respect, Include, Support and Enjoy into our daily lives as our school motto and our 'school rules also support a school, which is kind and caring to one another.

Assemblies and RE lessons are planned, to teach the children about our values, respecting similarities and differences. We aim to empower children to have a voice and to stand up against discrimination, valuing equality, tolerance and mutual respect. The topics and lessons in the school's curriculum are designed carefully and planned by teachers to provide contextual learning experiences that broadens understanding of the country we live in that will have a positive impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Whilst focusing on all children developing good skills in English and Maths and all subjects, we ensure they experience extra-curricular clubs such as music, a variety of sports, the arts and outdoor learning. Visits are planned linking with termly themes to provide children with further understanding of the world they live in. We also link with other schools to take part in singing and sporting events. Competitions provide the opportunity for children to meet other children from different schools whilst experiencing the process of decision making and understanding rules and fairness.

As part of our work our staff are trained to challenge any extremist views that are contrary to fundamental British Values from pupils, colleagues and parents.

### Being part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at St John's. Our school community is home to a vast collection of faiths, ethnicities and beliefs. We celebrate this unique diversity in many ways including Cultural Carnivals where all families and children are encouraged to share their family customs, cuisines, traditions and clothing. Regular workshops are held that enable the children to experience elements of different cultures and perform to their families and the rest of the school. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year; for example, Patron Saints Days and celebrations at Christmas. We also value and commemorate national events such as Remembrance Day.

Through faith, love, kindness and respect our St John's family will flourish and grow



Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Two specific examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

**Geographically: Coastline** - is about the physical and human features of coastal regions across the United Kingdom, including a detailed exploration of the coastal town of Whitby, in Yorkshire.

**Historically: School Days** - Is about our own school and locality, both today and in the past. They compare schooling in the Victorian era to their experiences today.

## **Democracy**

Democracy is embedded in the school. Pupils are listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils. The democratically elected School Council provides a more formal platform for class representatives to raise issues and suggest fundraising ideas. The older children also get the opportunity to help the youngest pupils in the school eg, walking them up to the local church at collective school worship events.

Parents' opinions are welcomed at St John's through methods such as questionnaires and feedback at parents' evenings

## **The rule of law**

The whole school was involved in creating our St John's School rules, empowering the children to understand the importance of rules. The importance of law, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days; when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. In order to help children understand how society cannot operate without a set of laws, we teach them how our school rules create an ordered, fair and safe place in which to learn. The class rules are agreed by the children and are display in classrooms. We help children to distinguish right from wrong and adopt restorative justice approaches to resolve conflicts. The school's structured Golden Rules Behaviour traffic Lights system teaches the children that there will be consequences for their behaviour and that if they make the right choices they will be rewarded e.g. raffle tickets (individually) and a termly class reward for the whole class.

Visits from the police to talk to the children encourage pupils to understand that the law protects us and is essential for our well-being and safety.

Through faith, love, kindness and respect our St John's family will flourish and grow



## **Individual liberty**

Our children have the opportunity to make individual choices and express opinions that develop their character and self-belief. However, they are encouraged to develop these qualities in the context of the rights and needs of other members of our school community. We model freedom of speech through pupil participation in class in the context of a safe, fair, supportive and ordered learning environment. We discuss and challenge stereotypes and implement a strong anti-bullying culture.

Pupils have key roles and responsibilities in school e.g. school council. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how they record, choose their lunch options, of participation in extracurricular clubs and opportunities etc., pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

## **Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

Respect is one of the core values. Children are encouraged to respect themselves and to respect individual differences. This is a fundamental principle that is put into practice in the classroom, around school, in the playground and in assemblies. We are lucky to have a diverse school community encompassing different languages, backgrounds and faiths. We help our children to acquire an understanding of, and respect for their own and other cultures and ways of life. We celebrate the languages spoken by some children in the school and the festivals celebrated by some of our families, visit different places of worship and welcome visitors who can widen our children's horizons even further. Our philosophy lessons encourage regular discussions and debate, this encourages our pupils to respect the views and beliefs of others.

We follow the agreed RE syllabus of the Diocese of Rochester, which provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

### **Further links:**

Departmental advice on promoting basic important British values as part of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-throughsmc>

**Departmental advice for schools and child care providers on The Prevent Duty**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/439598/preventduty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/preventduty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf)

Through faith, love, kindness and respect our St John's family will flourish and grow



Through faith, love, kindness and respect our St John's family will flourish and grow

