



Promoting British Values Policy

St Mark's CofE Primary School



"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

The DfE state 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."*

This statement is fully reflected through our four Christian values at St Mark's.

Our foundation of unconditional **love** for everyone in our community leads us towards **tolerance** and not judgement in all our relationships. We all work together as a **team**, even though our choices, beliefs and cultures can be different. We learn to make our own choices about our behaviour and spirituality, but we actively encourage **mutual respect for different cultures and beliefs**.

We have **individual liberty** to make choices, but we take **responsibility** for these choices when things have gone wrong. This shows us that true justice requires true **forgiveness** in order for us to grow as individuals and groups. We are not too **proud** to admit when we are wrong or to forgive others, but we are **proud** that we give people a chance to make a fresh start every day.

We put our **hopes** for the future into action as we **democratically** elect representatives each year. Pupil voice is important to our community and everyone is heard. Class charters and school behaviour expectations demonstrate how the **rule of law** binds a community together in a harmonious way. Through our **resilience** and **creativity** we grow and adapt for the future that we **hope** for.

Developing our spirituality is very important to us. We actively encourage all children to be **curious** about their own and others beliefs. We **take a risk** when maintaining our own personal beliefs when they differ from others around us. We have **mutual respect for followers of different religions and of no religion**.

At St Mark's, we use a programme called 'HeartSmart', which develops empathy and emotional resilience. We believe the HighFive statements further promote the 5 British Values, including *individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs*.

Don't Forget to Let Love in!

Too Much Selfie isn't Healthy!

THE HEARTSMART HIGH FIVE

Don't Rub it in Rub it Out!

Fake is a Mistake!

'No Way Through' isn't True!

Aims

Through our entire provision, we aim to:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people and understand that they are part of a community, including a global community; and
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Knowledge and Understanding

We expect our pupils to gain the following knowledge and understanding:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- 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;
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

School Actions

At St Mark's, the British values are reinforced regularly in the following ways:

Democracy

The value of democracy is embedded within school life. The whole school have the opportunity to have their voices heard through a number of avenues:

- Children in all year groups have the opportunity to be selected for various pupil committees. They complete application forms and produce campaign posters and speeches.
- Worships are held to explain the voting system and every child votes for their school council and eco-committee representatives. Polling booths are borrowed from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws: that they govern and protect us; that rules link with responsibilities; that there are consequences when laws or rules are broken. This is reinforced through:

- Classes create a class-based charter which is agreed and signed by all adults and children in that class.
- A relationships and behaviour policy which is understood by all stakeholders, and includes procedures for reflection and consequences.
- Fair play in PE, at break times and other activities
- Taking part in competitions and tournaments at other schools
- Visitors in to school e.g. Police and Fire Service discussing safety rules and what happens when rules are broken
- Year 6 annual trip to Think Safe where representatives of RNLI, Police, Fire, Trading Standards and SDAS (Domestic Abuse) explain rules to the children and the consequences when rules are broken
- Worships focus on Christian values and reinforce the rule of law
- RE themes such as 'Authority' covered in Year 2, and 'Justice' covered in Year 6

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely e.g. through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. In addition we promote:

- RRR values and a knowledge of those rights and responsibilities
- Our Achievement Points system by celebrating both individual and group achievements.
- A wide range of clubs to choose from. Through Pupil Premium, we ensure each child is able to choose and access.

Mutual Respect

Our school ethos and relationships and behaviour policy has revolved around our Core Christian Values: **faith, forgiveness, hope and love.**

Respect is at the heart of our ethos which is demonstrated in the following ways:

- Respecting differences e.g. languages, children from other countries
- Respecting each other through listening, sharing and being polite
- Appreciating individual effort with praise, achievement points and certificates to take home
- Having very close links with Immanuel Church.

- Remembrance Day Worships
- Circle time to listen and share what we are proud of or concerned about.
- Being founding members of Basingstoke Inclusion and Diversity Partnership - <https://www.stmarksprimary.net/diversity-and-inclusion/>

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions are supported by learning especially in RE and PSHE. To further embed this we:

- Deliver worships based on our strong Christian ethos
- Promote listening to each other and valuing others' opinions
- Support charities around the world e.g. Supporting another school in Ghana
- EARA Group, which is focussing on UN Rights of a Child - <https://www.stmarksprimary.net/eara-equalities-and-rights-advocates/>

Revised Summer 2022

Reviewed July 2023

<https://www.stmarksprimary.net/we-are-one/>

