

## British Values.

At Saint Louis School, we are fully committed to actively promoting British values in line with Department for Education (DfE) recommendations and the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 to keep children safe and prepare them for life in modern Britain. We welcome the DfE's focus on strengthening the 'spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) standard' by actively promoting the 'fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs, and encourage students to respect other people, with particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010'.

In October 2014, the Education Secretary Nicky Morgan further reinforced this; "We must not be shy about talking about fundamental British values... and schools should promote values such as 'mutual respect' and equality between girls and boys, she said, adding ideals such as democracy and tolerance must be 'woven' into the curriculum' (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-29627391>).

Our School Development Plan states our vision very clearly. We are inspired by Gospel values and actively promote British values, which in our view arise from those Gospel values which have been part of the fabric of our society for many hundreds of years.

### Democracy

Democracy is a fundamental value of our school community and integral to all that we do. An obvious example is our school council, which meets regularly during the school year. These children have had to write a presentation to their peers to persuade them why they should be elected to the role at start of the year. Each school councillor was voted for by their class.

Other examples of 'pupil voice' are:

- Children's comments on their own work, children are asked to respond and reflect on their own learning as part of the marking process.
- Children agree to uphold and respect the school rules and are actively encourage to discuss what these mean and the importance of them.
- Each year the children decide upon their class rules and the responsibilities associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the class rules at the beginning of each year. The School Rules are also regularly reviewed with the children.

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 Rule of Law**

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. We have a set of school rules which are in place and reviewed by the children regularly. Children from reception to year six are taught to value and uphold these rules:

Pupils are taught to value and understand the reasons behind the laws; that these rules are necessary in order to create a safe, stimulating learning environment. Children are taught that each individual has a responsibility to uphold these rules in order to create a harmonious place to learn and that those who do not uphold the rules are subject to negative consequences, in the same way they would be in the wider community. We also reinforce these rules in a positive way through mature discussion and positive rewards.

These values are reinforced in different ways:

- visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- during Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about
- during other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in a sports lesson, for example.

We aim to provide children with an understanding of the importance of the Rule of law that will aid them in both in their life outside of school and in their future adult life.

### **Individual Liberty**

We promote children's freedom of choice and their right to hold and express views and beliefs in a respectfully and considered way. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowered education, we have boundaries in place that allow children to make choices safely. We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. At St Louis School 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**

Respect for the individual is a deeply embedded reality in our school and we maintain and develop that by:

giving our students the opportunities to flourish as rounded individuals in a learning environment which is explicitly Christian but open and respectful of differing viewpoints. Our curriculum provides young people with a context for understanding themselves and the world in which they live, in order to prepare them for their future as responsible citizens within our society. We endeavour to develop the self-esteem and self-discipline of our students, and develop their talents so that they realise their potential to the full.

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

Saint Louis is an inclusive and diverse community, where all are valued irrespective of faith and traditions:

Aspects of the curriculum are linked to raising students' awareness and respect for, the faith and traditions of other communities – both on a local and global scale.

Together with this, there is the strong emphasis on the development of social, moral, spiritual and cultural skills where students are encouraged to think and decide for themselves, and be tolerant of the views of others.

In RE, students investigate world religions and explore moral issues from different faith perspectives and those of no religion.

In 1996 the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales issued a document entitled 'The Common Good'. They said '... in the spirit of good citizenship all members of the Catholic Church must accept their full share of responsibility for the welfare of society. We should regard the discharge of those responsibilities as no less important than fulfilling our religious duties and indeed as part of them'. It is with this in mind that St Louis School fully prepares the young people in our care for a life in modern Britain.