

TEACHING BRITISH VALUES

Promoting British Values at St. Gregory's Catholic Academy and Nursery

The DfE have recently reinforced 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."*

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated this year (2014). At St. Gregory's these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy is ubiquitous within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, ECO Team and pupil questionnaire both within school and our locality. Each year the children decide upon their class charter and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the charter.

We have a student council which meets every half term with the Head of School to discuss issues raised in council meetings. The council has its own budget and is genuinely able to effect change within the school. Every child on the student council is voted in by their class.

Children have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at St. Gregory's.

Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. These are our School Rules, Playground Rules and Safety Rules. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws - which are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

At St. Gregory's, pupils are actively encouraged to be independent learners and 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 informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our eSafety and PSHE lessons. They are taught consideration for others through our Religious Education curriculum and PSHE lessons in particular. E-safety teaching enables them to make choices in a safe manner. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global.

Mutual Respect

Our school mission statement is "Forward together in the Love of Christ." Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. All members of the school community treat each other with respect. Displays around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

St. Gregory's is a Catholic worshipping community, though we actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. 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 involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE, PSHE and the spiritual life of the school. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.