

ST CHARLES RCVA PRIMARY SCHOOL



# British Values Policy

Policy Updated: September 2019



**St Charles RCVA Primary School**

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**Revised September 2017**

**Mission Statement**



**The community of St. Charles School believes that Jesus is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to giving every child, every opportunity to achieve their potential, in mind and body, in a happy, safe and caring environment.**

The Department for Education stated the need 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote fundamental British values.'

British Values have been defined as:

- **Democracy**
- **The Rule of Law**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **Mutual Respect**
- **Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

At St. Charles School we want our children to become, global citizens who are proud of who they are, respectful and tolerant towards others and know their responsibilities to others. These values underpin everything we do within school.



As a Catholic School, we seek to live out the values of Jesus Christ and promote these values through our teachings and actions. Our curriculum is designed to enable every pupil to recognise, learn and experience a wide range of beliefs and understandings of the world; enabling them to become responsible, caring and active citizens.

Through our Collective Worship programme, it deepens our pupils understanding of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Over the course of the school year pupils;

- are encouraged to be reflective about their own and others' beliefs
- develop an understanding about themselves and others in the world
- recognise the difference between right and wrong and the importance of tolerance and respect for everyone
- understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions, and appreciate the viewpoints of others are supported in, developing a respect for the civil and criminal law of England
- develop their social skills to embrace pupils from different religions, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

In addition to this, our RE, Family Group sessions and wider curriculum supports pupils in embedding these values. These include a study of other religions, visits to places of worship, global diversity and pupil voice as represented by the schools pupil governors.

Family group sessions take place on a weekly basis and provide all pupils, from Reception to Year Six, the opportunity to learn more about key values, as well as integrating them into a wide range of discussion points.

At St Charles RCVA Primary School, we are committed to these values and regularly reinforce them in the following ways.

### **Democracy:**

As a school, we believe that the pupils' voice is integral to leading a democratic society. The pupils devise their class, playground and dining room charters. In addition to this our school council, our pupil governors, ensures pupils' voices are heard. The elections of the pupil governor members are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. Pupils are asked to give a speech about why they should be elected and are encouraged to campaign for the votes.



Our pupil governors represent our nine family groups and raise pertinent issues within family group time, reporting back key information. They also lead 'Time to Talk' sessions where every pupil in the school has the opportunity to discuss and give their own ideas and opinions on a wide range of topics. Discussions are brought back to meetings and fed back to members of staff involved.

Our School Pupil Governors decide the charities we support and identify ways in which we can do this. They also provide valuable ideas to improve the school environment. Our pupil questionnaires provide further information from pupils which the school acts upon. In this way we teach our pupils how they can influence decision making through a democratic process and how this may differ from those countries who are not as freely able to have their opinions recognised. They are encouraged to be involved in the decision-making

processes. Pupils have a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services. Within school, pupils are provided with platforms to express their views e.g. discussing current topics in assembly and class debates. Through class debates we model how perceived injustices can be peacefully challenged.

### **The Rule of Law:**

The importance of civil and criminal law is explored through history or enrichment activities. Year groups will learn about specific moments in history that have changed the way we live and how decisions have been made. For example the Ancient Greeks and Tudors. Visits by the local police and other services, as well as attending the Safety Carousel every year, help our children to understand how these services operate and how they support them and their families and how if necessary they hold people to account.

Our pupils benefit from a range of visits during their time at St. Charles;

- from community police officers who discuss road safety and stranger danger
- fire officers to promote safety
- attending the Safety Carousel at Newton Aycliffe
- Year 3 complete their pedestrian training, with Year 5 and Year 6 completing their cycling proficiency training
- Child line and community e-safety officers who have strengthened our pupils understanding of how to be safe on line.
- The school routinely offers advice to parents, and pupils, with regards to incidents concerning e-safety outside school. Our IT co-ordinator recently provided advice on Instagram for parents.

### **Individual Liberty:**

Within our school, children are encouraged to make personal choices in a safe and supportive environment. We support our pupils to develop self-knowledge; self-esteem and self-confidence in all we do. Children are aware of their rights and personal freedom and the responsibility we must all take for our actions, e.g. through e-safety children are given the ability to make informed safe personal choices. Through the curriculum, pupils have the opportunity to debate a topic and exercise their right to freedom of speech. During assemblies and through our Family Group /SMSC curriculum we challenge stereotypes.

### **Mutual Respect:**

The core value of our school ethos is 'respect' for ourselves; each other and our environment. Nurturing Human Wholeness provides a platform for pupils, providing them with a statement to live by, a context for this statement that makes sense to the child, and a challenge to live out this statement in their daily lives. Our school mission statement reinforces the important Gospel Values, working alongside developing a greater and deeper understanding for other cultures.

Our Mini Vinnies and School Pupil Governors actively work within school, the parish and local community to support and develop links with many local and global organisations and charities. They aim to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves by:

- Collecting for the local foodbank
- Supporting our parish SVP group in making food parcels, singing at our local residential home and sending out Christmas cards
- Raising money for charities, including Text Santa, St Cuthbert's 5P Bus appeal, HCPT Group 25
- Collecting shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child
- During Lent, we take each Friday to raise money for the incredible work that CAFOD does



- As a school, we also work alongside 'Success North East' that allows us to share expertise, experience and take part in a range of events and activities within the local Spennymoor community; supporting the local council in decision making and raising awareness of important issues.

### Respect of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

Our school community lives and works harmoniously; we welcome pupils from other Christian denominations, other Faiths and those who have no Faith. We consider that our socio-economic and faith diversity enhances our school and deepens our understanding of others.

Within school we focus on enhancing our pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place and the place of others in our culturally diverse society. We do this by giving them opportunities to positively experience diversity, e.g. by celebrating and sharing our different faiths and cultures, visits we make to other faith places of worship and through our geography curriculum. Through our PSCE and RSE curriculum and focus on equality we discuss differences between people; such as faith; ethnicity; disability; gender or sexuality and different family situations so we can encourage critical personal thinking and tolerance. Our creative curriculum incorporates a range of cross-curricular opportunities to learn about, and thereby develop greater respect for, other cultures.



### Remembrance

At St Charles we believe that it is important to commemorate the service men and women who give their lives to serving our country. While in London, pupils visit the many memorial statues dedicated to these service personnel. In school, pupils learn about the both wars, but also about the wars that our happening within today's society.



In November we wear poppies and classes take this opportunity to teach and explain to pupils the importance of remembering. First Friday masses and Remembrance Day collective worships are dedicated to bringing together all our thoughts and prayers.