



**Federation of  
St Godric's and St Mary's  
RCVA Primary Schools**

# British Values Policy

June 2015

## **British Values**

This policy is written with consideration to our school commitment to the Rights of the Child, and our achievement of becoming a Rights Respecting School. Although direct reference to this is not continuously made, the policy has been written with full awareness of our responsibility and commitment to this purpose.

As our school is built on the values of the Christian faith and the promotion of Children's Rights, 'British Values' are an intrinsic part of our ethos and school culture.

The Government has stated that British Values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

Our school principles & mission statement clearly underpin British values and they are reinforced regularly through the relationships, language and attitudes in school as well as through many practical opportunities.

### **Democracy:**

Article 12 (UNCRC) states that 'children have the right to have a say in matters that affect them'.

School has a well-established system of democratic elections for various Pupil Committees like the school council, eco team, 'Mini Vinnies' chaplaincy group, and RRSA steering group; and Pupil Voice is a strength of the school. We ensure all pupils are listened to by adults and promote the learning of democratic ideas in history lessons, as well as, where possible trips to parliaments, local councils etc.

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

Article 41 (UNCRC) states that 'if the laws of a country protect children better than the articles of the Convention then those laws must stay in place'.

School teaches children that everyone, children and adults alike are to be given respect. Adults are the duty bearers to ensure that children can access their rights and therefore must be respected as Article 3 states that 'adults must act in the best interests of the child'. As a core School Principle, respect is built into everything we do and say. We have a clear behaviour policy that is explained to all. Links with the police service are organised to reinforce the message of right and wrong. In our RE curriculum we highlight the rules of the Church and God, e.g. the 10 commandments.

### **Individual Liberty:**

Article 2 (UNCRC) states that 'The Convention applies to everyone: whatever their race, religion or abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from'.

School had an inclusive approach where all children are recognized as individuals and their individual potential is 'grown'. Pupils are encouraged to be independent in their learning and are provided with opportunities for personal reflection.

### **Mutual Respect and Tolerance:**

Article 14 ( UNCRC) states that 'every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights'.

Our mission statement is inclusive and we constantly promote respect for others as good manners. Everyone's opinion is of value and our anti-bullying policy is rigorously enforced.

Assemblies and Collective Worship teach respect for all, and, alongside R.E. lessons, teach children that every person is unique and "created in the image of God";

R.E. provides pupils with a deep understanding of their own faith, as well as awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as a basis for understanding and respecting them. We show how Jesus encouraged tolerance in stories such as The Good Samaritan and The Women at the Well. Children also visit places of worship of other faiths, and have visitors into school to talk to them.

Curriculum topics encourage celebration of similarities and differences.

Varied charitable works are often supported, particularly CAFOD and UNICEF, and children are very enthusiastic about supporting these.

Many links with other schools are well established – our federation with St. Godric's and joint residential trips & events with other local Catholic schools provide opportunities for our children to mix with a wider number of children. Joint events with Peterlee Partnership schools such as festivals, sports events, international networks, Christmas & Easter card swaps enable our children to mix with children from other places and of other backgrounds & faiths. Within our local village, events are sometimes organised so that the children can meet other children in their local community.