



St. Ethelbert's RCP Values Education Policy Statement

Love, Care, Share...

Love learning as friends;

Care for our community as neighbours;

Share our faith in Jesus as disciples.

Rationale

The DfE have stated 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 fundamental values were reinforced in the 2014 guidance ‘Promoting Fundamental British Values through SMSC’. Values education supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

Aim

Here at St Ethelbert's, we take very seriously our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain by raising standards and promoting a school ethos which is underpinned by our core values and the themes of Catholic Social Justice. In order that we might have life in all its fullness, we ensure that our Mission Statement is lived throughout every aspect of our school. Our values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful environment, which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children and young people.

St. Ethelbert's is a Welcoming Community

In ‘***caring for our community as neighbours***’ we strive to make our school a place of warm welcome for pupils, staff, parishioners and visitors. We are an inclusive school and, as such, we aim to promote mutual respect, self-esteem and a sense of community, with the Kingdom Values at the forefront of all our work.

Our school family has a strong sense of belonging. Whether it is in their classes, school or the wider communities of Deane and Bolton, our children are proud of where they are from and have acceptance and compassion for the diverse communities they encounter. We aim to develop and promote the spirituality of our pupils, and this in turn influences the formation of the adults through the shared experience of all. Our parents and families are drawn to be in partnership with our school and our parish (communion).

Pupils have many opportunities to learn about people from different cultures and faiths through our curriculum, links within the community and the multicultural nature of our school family. We also encourage our young people to develop their sense of charity and care for others, locally and globally.

As a result, St Ethelbert's is a happy and safe environment, in which children and young people can learn and grow, and contribute much to British Society. Furthermore, there is tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions **as children acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and others' cultures and beliefs.**

Pupil Leadership

Promoting '**democracy**' takes many forms, within the formal and informal curriculum.

Our Religious Education is at the foundation of all that we do in our school. We are inspired by the Word of God and we endeavour to live in the service of each other; we bear witness to the Word of God through our actions in our daily lives, using the Gospel values to guide our relationships and behaviour. We celebrate the Word of God through regular worship and liturgy.

Pupil Voice plays an integral role in the decision-making processes of our school, with all children given an opportunity to be Catholic leaders in some shape or form. In every year group, children work together to develop their own class rules. Our GIFT Team, Caritas Ambassadors and Peacemakers make a significant contribution to the Catholic life of the school. Children from different year groups meet with our governors on a termly basis to give their views about activities in school and other issues linked to teaching and learning and personal development and behaviour.

All pupils are involved in charity work; many of the fund-raising activities are organised by the children themselves in response to things they have seen on the news or in the local community. They have a strong sense of justice and fairness.

All young people, where appropriate and consistent with their level of understanding, are taught about the democratic processes that operate within the UK, through the PSHE curriculum. As a result, children develop an understanding of **how citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process and of how they can contribute positively to the lives of others. For example, during Parliament Week, pupils in Y6 learn about how government works; they have the opportunity to speak to the local councillor, the Mayor and Member of Parliament about issues which concern them. They are developing their role as activists for social change.**

Bearing Witness

At St. Ethelbert's, we all bear witness to our Mission Statement and to the values of the Gospel including: reconciliation, compassion, justice, freedom, service and stewardship. Through our curriculum, including our *Caritas in Action* Days, we nurture, support and challenge our children to live out and to give witness to the Gospel Values in their everyday experience of school life as we strive to build a community which is outward looking and serves the common good. Our children are taught to be good stewards of Creation. **They understand that any form of discrimination is not to be tolerated** and know what to do if they have a concern.

Here at St. Ethelbert's, pupils are taught about the importance of rules which protect us and keep us safe. Our children understand the difference between right and wrong and that there are consequences in all walks of life if rules are ignored. Our Positive Behaviour policy, which is consistently applied and which is underpinned by reconciliation, encourages our children to take responsibility for themselves and their own behaviour, so that they are well prepared to become responsible citizens both now and in the future. Activities such as Friendship Week, E-Safety Day and our close relationships with our PCSOs, develop pupils' knowledge and **understanding of the laws of the land**, and the roles of agencies such as courts and police.

Self-worth & Self-care

At St. Ethelbert's, we have a commitment that every member of our school family should 'have life to the full' and seek to promote '**individual liberty**' and respect the dignity of each individual as a child of God. We cultivate an attitude of respect for each other among our whole community. We promote responsibility and consideration for others within and beyond our community. We aim to support parents in the demands of their vocation to bring up their children so that they can experience life to the full.

Children are actively encouraged to make choices appropriate to their ability and level of understanding, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We support pupils in the development of their self-confidence and self-belief, through our nurture programme. We reinforce the belief that we all have

rights and personal freedoms, and we demonstrate how to develop and exercise these safely, including in relation to e-safety, through the taught and implicit curriculum.

As a result, our pupils develop a sense of their own personal freedoms, and recognise the impact they may have on others, including staff, family and peers.

St. Ethelbert's is a Worshipping Community

The wide range of opportunities for prayer and worship within our school promote a strong sense of community as we '***share our faith in Jesus as disciples***'. Through worship, our children develop a meaningful relationship with God, as they learn to be reverent and respectful as they talk and listen to the Father. Through worship, all are led to reflect, meditate and pray in a way that nurtures the spirituality of the whole community. In worship, the Word of God is celebrated and given reverence. Collective worship is planned by the children, which stimulates reflection on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues. The purpose and value of collective worship is reinforced by celebrations through the liturgical year which also **recognise the faiths and beliefs of people from other groups within the school.**

Conclusion

Across the year, our children learn about different aspects of British culture (e.g. lessons about Parliament; the monarchy etc.) This provision ensures that our children understand more about the country they live in, its heritage and the people that make up our diverse society.

However, we believe that the values we hold as an authentic Catholic community, articulated through our Mission Statement and developed through our provision, meet and even exceed DfE requirements. They are not an 'add-on' but are a living, breathing part of our school community. It is 'what we do and who we are.'

Reviewed October 2024