



# **British Values Statement and Supporting Policy**

## **St Edward's Catholic Academy**

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*True Mind, True Heart, True Spirit*

## **St Edward's Catholic Academy British Values Statement and Supporting Policy**

Evidence of how the fundamental British Values are embedded across the school and curriculum can be found in the following policies and documents. Please also refer to:

- Behaviour Policy
- SEN Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- Curriculum Policies
- Home school agreement.
- Physical Education Policy
- R.E Policy.
- Teaching and Learning Policy.
- Complaints Policy.

### **Introduction**

At St Edward's we pride ourselves on our strong Catholic ethos based on the Gospel values and teaching of the Church. To this end we aim to maintain a high standard of behaviour. An important part of this is the support we receive from the families who share our values.

This policy principally relates to children but it is important to note that the principles set out here relate to positive relationships and behaviour of all; this includes amongst staff and all members of our Academy community.

### **Aims, expectations and principles**

This policy reflects and supports the aims of our Mission Statement:

*'True Mind, True Heart, True Spirit'*

## **British Values Statement.**

The DfE (Department for Education) have 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.

At St Edward's Catholic Academy, these fundamental British values are promoted and embedded into all parts of school life. Our Academy ethos 'True Mind, True Heart, True Spirit and our policies including our RE and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) policies, reflect these values, ensuring that all members of our school understand the importance of them and how they are essential to enable us to operate as a community.

We are a Catholic Academy which seeks to live out the values of Jesus Christ. We promote these values by our words and deeds, and Catholic doctrine and practice therefore permeates every aspect of the academy's activity. We provide a Catholic curriculum, which is broad and balanced, recognising that every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (Gen 1:27) our curriculum is designed to enable every pupil to discern their vocation and to be well-equipped to follow it as active citizens in service to the world. Catholic Religious Education is the 'core of the core curriculum' (Pope St John Paul II) and the foundation of the entire educational process.

The government set out its definition of 'British values' in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011) which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalisation of young people. British values are considered by the present government to be democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. The promotion of 'British Values' is central to Catholic education because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

***'We are proud that Catholic schools promoted values that are both Catholic and British, including: respect for the individual, democracy, individual liberty, respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. Our schools and academies promote cohesion by serving more ethnically diverse and poorer communities. Catholic schools provide high standards of education which are popular with parents from all social, economic and faith backgrounds'***

***Paul Barber (Catholic Education Service 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014***

Within our academy we recognise, not only the importance of helping children to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the Common Good of all. We teach the importance of British values by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, with a framework of Catholic Christian Values. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why British values are important. Our framework for understanding British values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all, which is developed in Catholic Social Teaching. We provide an education which focuses on the formation of the whole person and on our vocation and purpose in life. We are guided by our mission statement and by the Christian values of honourable purpose (that is,

vocation and service), respect, compassion, co-operation and stewardship as we reflect on our place and purposes in the world. We place a significant emphasis on the celebration of individuality and difference within our community and our calling to work for the Common Good, in the service of others.

### **Mission Statement:**

At St Edwards Catholic Academy we believe that every individual is unique and made in God's own image. We accept the trust that parents and carers have placed in putting their children into our care as a privilege. Therefore everything we do at school is aimed at developing each child to his or her full spiritual, academic and social potential.

To this end the Directors, in partnership with the staff seek to ensure that

- As a Catholic school our religious education, based on the teachings of the Gospel and the Catholic Church, permeates every aspect of school life.
- We see to foster a positive attitude between all members of our school community whether child or adult, showing mutual respect regardless of ability, gender, race or culture.
- We encourage our pupils to be pro-active in all aspects of school life and seek and value their opinions.
- We seek to provide interesting, engaging and challenging lessons to enable effective learning for each pupil.
- We seek to provide a safe and attractive learning environment in which children learn to be sensitive and be aware of the wider environment for which they will ultimately be responsible.
- As a Catholic academy we believe that parents and carers are the foremost educators of their children. We encourage parents and carers to play an active role in the education of their children and welcome and value their views.

***I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans to give you hop and a future.***

***Jer. 29:11***

Our Catholic ethos, which includes explicit reference to Christian and British values, makes a tangible difference to the way we work together and with our wider communities. With this framework it would be impossible to overlook the government's view of British values expressed as 'democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.' The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British values at St Edward's Catholic Academy and should be seen as guidance and an indication of our collaborative approach.

### **The Rule of Law.**

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the Academy or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout every day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through Acts of Worship. The curriculum is designed to ensure students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from

authorities such as the Police and Fire Service are regular parts of our learning programmes and help reinforce this message. This is addressed through the academies 'Theme of The Week' programme and enrichment activities which are delivered throughout the academic year.

### **Individual Liberty**

Children are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We encourage children to see themselves as unique individuals able to make a unique contribution to building community. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely.

### **Mutual Respect**

Respect is a core value of our Academy and is modelled by the children and staff alike. We promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments as well as extra-curricular activities. In line with our commitment to democracy, children are able to voice their opinions through the school council as we foster an environment where children can talk about ideas and are safe to disagree with each other. Aspects are also addressed via the Eddie's Angels peer pastoral committee. We encourage children to substantiate opinions and to realise the value of co-operation and consensus as well as decision-making through voting. Our emphasis on ethics, fairness and justice means that we ask our children to ensure that they look out for those who may be marginalised and disadvantaged. We take a strong stance on social inclusion and anti-bullying through an explicit focus on strategies to enable respect for difference through, for example, reflections on homophobia and other forms of bullying.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.**

This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to develop positive values, understand their own beliefs and their place in a culturally diverse society. We give our children opportunities to experience such diversity within the Academies community and within the wider community. All children experience a connection with other cultures and beliefs through the Come and See RE programme and theme days establishing local, regional and international links. The emphasis on enterprise, working with others, and learning about world cultures directly contributes to the appreciation of others' perspectives on life. Our Religious Studies Curriculum follows the teaching of the Church in providing a broad and balanced education, which includes an understanding of and respect for people of other faiths or non-faiths and other religions, cultures and lifestyles.

## Links:

Evidence of how the fundamental British values are embedded across the academy can be found and linked to the following policies and areas of the curriculum.

- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- Curriculum Policies
- Early Years Policy
- Home to School Agreement.
- Physical Education Policy
- PSHE Policy.
- R.E Policy
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy.
- Teaching and Learning Policy.

The Academy celebrates diversity through the ***Theme of The Week*** Programme which celebrates diversity through holding focussed weeks such as Black History, British Values, World Faiths, Celebrating Women, Mindfulness and Wellbeing, Achievement and Aspirations and Global Issues. Members of the Academy are active members of the local community, exploring and celebrating its rich, diverse culture and historical background.

To furthermore promote British Values a generic display is evident in each classroom which is adapted to the individual year group and level of knowledge and understanding with a prominent whole school display in the main hall.