



St George and St Martin Catholic Academy

British Values Policy

Approved by:

Date:

Last reviewed on:
September 2024

Next review due by:
September 2027

OUR MISSION

‘Growing, Learning, Loving in Christ; United in Play, Prayer and Peace’

St George and St Martin Catholic Academy recognises that Gospel values and the teachings of the Church are central to the life of the school. The school aims to create an environment where children can develop physically, emotionally, socially and morally fostering co-operation and communication between home, school, parish and the local community. Together we hope to lead our children towards understanding, tolerance, justice and sensitivity to the needs of others.

DEMOCRACY “Develop an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process”

Democracy is at the heart of St George and St Martin Catholic Academy aims and ethos. Children have a strong awareness that all are made in the image and likeness of God. Staff encourage children to know that their views count, to value each other’s views and to talk about their feelings.

The election of School Council members reflects the British electoral system. Pupils consider the necessary characteristics for an effective student council member and vote using a secret ballot. The School Council meet regularly to bring suggestions to the table from their peers and make decisions about ways to improve the school for the benefit of all. Examples of positive changes made are:

- Being involved in the development of the behaviour policy;
- Deciding on the attendance rewards for 100% attendance and the class with the best attendance;
- Deciding on after-school clubs.

RULE OF LAW “Develop an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individuals and is essential for their wellbeing and safety”

Staff ensure that children understand their own and others’ behaviour and its consequences. Pupils learn to distinguish right from wrong through discussions and the modelling of positive behaviour and by the implementation of St George and St Martin Academy rules. These encourage pupils to love God and love one another. Pupils who are observed putting these rules into practise are rewarded by their class teacher or by receiving a Principal award. Assembly awards are also important motivators for pupils to follow the school rules. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- the Gospel Values and Virtues,
- a broad and balanced curriculum,
- visits from authorities such as the police and fire service,
- visits to the Houses of Parliament and taking part in Parliament week,
- Religious Education, during which rules from different faiths are considered,
- other curriculum subjects, where there is a need for respect and appreciation of different rules – e.g. P.E.

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY “Develop an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected by law”

Staff support all pupils to develop positive self-esteem, self-awareness and self-confidence. Each pupil is supported to become as independent as possible through the school Curriculum which promotes creative cross-curricular learning, enabling environments and innovative use of technology. We recognise that pupils have various learning styles and provide opportunities for pupil led learning. We teach pupils ways they can make choices and give them strategies to communicate. Teaching and learning will be matched to the appropriate stage of children's physical, mental, social, spiritual, moral and cultural development needs. Children have the opportunity to self-differentiate their work in all subjects, meaning they are making their own decisions about their learning.

At St George and St Martin Catholic Academy we take bullying very seriously. We always take part in anti-bullying week and make sure bullying is at the forefront of our RHE lessons and feel it is important to make sure children have a clear understanding of what bullying is and who to go to if they feel like they are being bullied. **There are anti-bullying ambassadors who the children are able to talk to, and who also report any concerns to staff.**

Play leaders in the playground provide pupils with a safe place to go at playtimes. Trained leaders are encouraged to approach anyone sitting on a bench and ask if they would like to play with or talk to them, ensuring no child is alone if they don't want to be.

MUTUAL TOLERANCE AND RESPECT "Develop an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs (or none) should be accepted and tolerated and should not be subject to prejudice or discrimination."

Inclusion, mutual tolerance and respect are at the heart of St George and St Martin aims and ethos. We believe that each person is respected and valued equally without regard to faith, heritage, race, ability or gender.

Staff aim to enhance pupils understanding and respect for different cultures, faiths and beliefs including Black History month through our curriculum, examples are;

- Creative Arts - by considering cultures from around the world through music, art and dance.
- Knowledge & Understanding of the World - through organising Themed Days and Weeks where we celebrate and enjoy the differences between other countries and cultures.
- Literacy and ICT – where there are opportunities to explore cultures and traditions using a wide range of fiction, non-fiction texts and the internet.
- RHE, Health and Wellbeing – where Circle Time is an important tool for promoting mutual tolerance and respect.

We also encourage involvement in charity events where pupils are made aware of the needs of people both in our own community and other countries, supporting them through national fund raising events such as Children in Need, CAFOD, Father Hudson Care.

At St George and St Martin Catholic Academy we are dedicated to ensuring our pupils develop a strong sense of social and moral responsibility, preparing them for life in Modern Britain where, in an ever changing society they understand the importance of and are able to uphold the fundamental British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual tolerance and respect for others.