

British Values Statement

St. Thomas More's Catholic Primary School



Approved by The Governing Body:

Summer 2025

Next Review:

Summer 2028

Our Mission Statement

As we walk together with Jesus we love, live and learn

The Department of Education (DfE) have recently 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."

These are:

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

At St Thomas More's/St Clare's Primary School we are committed to serving our community and local area. To do this, we regularly reinforce British values in the following ways:

Democracy

Democratic values are an explicit part of the ethos of the school. All adults listen to the views of the pupils and value their opinions. Pupils have further opportunities to have their voices heard through our School Council, Cafod Club, Liturgy Leaders, public speaking opportunities and the election of House Captains and pupil questionnaires as well as any groups or helpers which are based solely on pupil votes.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws and rules are consistently reinforced in the classroom and through school assemblies that focus on recognising right from wrong. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws to ensure individual protection, not only the responsibilities that this involves, but also the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used.

Individual Liberty

As a school, we educate and provide boundaries for the children to encourage them to be independent learners who constantly make choices with a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught to use these rights to best effect. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others through our Religious Education curriculum, PSHE lessons and E-safety teaching to enable them to make choices in a safe manner.

Mutual Respect

Our school's ethos and behaviour policy are based on Gospel values, with the important commandment being, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. Assemblies constantly promote respect for others and the importance of good manners. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honest and open communication with others and fair play. Pupils work collaboratively and value the opinions of other people.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

As a Catholic worshipping community, pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum and the spiritual life of the school. Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally, regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. Members of different faiths or religions are invited to school to share their knowledge and enhance learning within assemblies and in class.

It is hoped that when our pupils leave St Thomas More's School they will:

- understand their responsibilities as citizens in a democratic society;
- have an awareness of how they can maintain the underpinning of core values;
- maintain an awareness and respect for the culturally diverse society in which they live.