

## **British Values**

The 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.”*

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated this year (2014). At St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

In our school, children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a School Council which meets regularly to discuss any issues or ideas raised in classes. The council has its own budget and is able to genuinely effect change within the school. The members of the council have to make a choice about whether they would like to be considered for the role, then they have to apply and be elected.

They have been influential in a range of ways including purchasing new playtime equipment, contributing to the school menu, winning awards for their environmental work and pedestrian training linked to road safety.

Our school mission underpins our faith and our attitude to tolerance and equality. We all enact this on a daily basis and so it is right that we take ownership of it. This year we allowed each class to discuss and contribute to the construction of an updated school mission which exemplifies our commitment to our faith, but also our British values.

We are committed to supporting charities in our school and fundraise for many causes. Each class chooses what they would like to fundraise for and many of our children initiate schemes to achieve their goals. We also respond to need as it occurs and the children are instrumental in this.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school worship and assemblies. 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message and enables the children to see how the law works in action.

## **Individual Liberty**

Within school, our children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Our children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely eg: through our SEAL and RE lessons, in worship and in assemblies. They also understand the right of others to make their own choices and to celebrate the ways in which we are the same and different. Our children understand they make many choices daily in their lives and that while we as adults can guide them, ultimately the choice made is theirs. We do ask however, that they remain aware of how the choices they make will affect others.

## **Mutual Respect**

As a faith community, love and mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Jesus said *'Love one another as I have loved you!'*

Our children learn that their behaviour impacts on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and the overwhelmingly positive feedback we receive from parents, members of the local community and our children suggest this message is very much at the heart of their behaviour on a daily basis.

## **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

Our school is situated in an area which is not culturally homogenous; therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Worship and assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE curriculum reinforces this. Any children or adults of other faiths are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

We also endeavour to create ways in which our children can mix with children of other faiths through work with our twin school in Palestine with whom children have written e-mails and shared elements of our culture and faith.

We know our children well and work hard to use their personal interests to reiterate the message of diversity through other means also, such as tolerance and respect for those who support different football teams to them. Many of our children are passionate about football and their favourite team and intolerance is often borne out of passion without reason or understanding, so we work hard to ensure our children are well equipped to cope with this in a mature and tolerant way.

At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School we will not tolerate pupils, staff, governors or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views. Our Mission statement, our policies, our faith and our day to day behaviour all embody this antipathy towards ignorance and hatred.

