



St Vincent's RC Primary School

Promoting British Values policy

2023-2026

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The Department of Education 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.”

Within the Revised Framework (2019), Ofsted state that inspectors will judge the effectiveness in which the provider prepares learners for life in modern Britain by:

- equipping them to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society
- developing their understanding of fundamental British values
- developing their understanding and appreciation of diversity
- celebrating what we have in common and promoting respect for the different protected characteristics as defined in law.

The updated School Inspection Handbook (2023) states inspectors will evaluate personal development (section 291) as well as evaluating the effectiveness of the school’s provision for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural education (section 299 – 303). Within these sections references are made to the teaching of and understanding of the Fundamental British Values.

We understand the Fundamental British Values as

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

INTENT:

A key part of our plan for education at St Vincent’s has always been to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. Through the broad and balanced provision of the curriculum and the values of Christ, as witnessed through the Gospels, we actively promote and reinforce these ‘British values’ that have their roots in the Christian values and beliefs that were in existence at the time our country was moving towards a wider understanding of what government and the rights of the people were.

At St Vincent’s we recognise that these values are not uniquely British. The teachings and ideals of Christ, given to us through His Word and His Body, walk hand in hand with these values bringing: Love and Solidarity, Truth and Justice, Purity and Holiness, Dignity and Compassion and Tolerance and Peace. We teach the importance of ‘British Values’ by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian Values. At St Vincent’s we are guided by our motto which best sums up the ethos of our school:

“Hand in Hand with Jesus”

Together, guided by Christian values of respect, compassion, co-operation and stewardship, we reflect on our place and purpose in the world. We simultaneously celebrate individuality and difference within our communities and share the calling to work for the Common Good, in the service of others.

IMPLEMENT/IMPACT:

The examples that follow are just some of the ways that ‘British values’ are embedded into our everyday life and curriculum at St Vincent’s:

Democracy

Democracy plays an integral part of school life. At the beginning of the year, each class decide upon their own 'Class Rules' and the rights associated with them. There are numerous opportunities for our children to take positions of responsibility within school; School Council, Year 6 'special friends', Eco team, Digital Leaders, Maths ambassadors, Sports leaders and the school G.I.F.T Team (Growing in Faith Together). Pupil voice is heard through the School Council, Prayer and Worship sessions and pupil questionnaires. Our children take part in real democratic processes; elections to the School Council are based on pupil votes, classes have opportunities to vote and make decisions regarding fundraising events and initiatives such as CAFOD. This enables all children to see how they can influence decision making and how this can impact on change. Our School Council is a group of children who act as one voice for the children in the school and is actively involved in developing policies and practices which impact on the day to day practice within the school. All pupils are listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and respect each individual's right to an opinion and the opportunity to voice this.

St Vincent's is constantly looking at ways to improve communication both internally and externally. The school operates an 'open door' policy for parents so they can discuss any concerns or ideas they have with members of the Senior Leadership Team. Parents are welcome to email the school or make an appointment with the Headteacher to share ideas or concerns. These will be taken into consideration by the SLT and Governors and, where relevant, will result in changes to the policy.

Through the curriculum, the origins of democracy are explored through historical research of Ancient Greece, Roman civilizations, the Monarchy and Government.

The Rule of Law

Respect for rules and laws is embedded within our ethos. Pupils are continually taught to recognise right from wrong, at a level appropriate to their maturity. The school rules are an integral aspect of this; they are constantly being reinforced in class, around school, during assemblies and through the behaviour and discipline policy.

At St Vincent's pupils draw up their own class rules which link to the whole school Behaviour & Discipline Policy and the use of the 'Class Dojo' system of rewards is used throughout the school to reinforce positive choices in terms of attitudes towards school and behaviour. Through our school's Christian values, our broad and balanced curriculum, including our RE curriculum and opportunities for collective worship, children are taught how to earn trust and respect and are supported to develop a strong sense of morality. Pupils know right from wrong and about making good choices, even when it is difficult. 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.

During the year we welcome members of the wider community including public authorities such as the Police and the Fire Service to help reinforce this message. We also encourage our children to be active citizens in their community through initiatives including; foodbank collections, local charity work, environmental action and involvement in local, national and international campaigns.

Individual Liberty

Within St Vincent's school, pupils are supported and guided spiritually and morally, learning how to make good effective choices whilst knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils, staff and members of our school community are encouraged to make choices that are supported by the catholic ethos of our school and are reminded of this through our mission statement and reinforcing the thought process 'what would Jesus do?'. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely. This is explored, for example, through e-safety, PSHE* lessons, RSE**,

NSPCC initiatives (PANTs) and by the provision of a variety of cross-curricular learning opportunities. Pupils are encouraged to take opportunities to follow their interests in a range of extra-curricular clubs including; sports, music and the school choir which allow them to exercise their individual choice. This is also reinforced through weekly Key Stage assemblies and regular class discussions.

**Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education*

***Relationships and Sex Education (provided by Ten:Ten)*

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is an integral part of moral development and is at the heart of our school; every member of the school community is valued and has a vital contribution to make to the school. Through individual and class discussions, we encourage our children to reflect on their choices and how these affect others. Children are taught to respect each other, to be co-operative and collaborative and to look for similarities while being understanding of differences. We participate in themed days/weeks that promote similarities and differences. We care and support one another, pray for one another, show respect for one another and love one another. This is again reinforced through assemblies.

As part of our school calendar, we have termly events where the community are able to come together and we demonstrate a mutual respect for each other. Our children also show respect for our environment by litter picking and recycling as well as supporting a number of fundraising days, raising awareness for a variety of causes including charity work for CAFOD, British Heart Foundation and Local Foodbanks in addition to others such as Sports Relief and Children In Need.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

The development of pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity is very important at St Vincent's.

St Vincent's is an inclusive school community, where tolerance and understanding of those with different faiths and beliefs is embedded within our ethos. Through the RE curriculum, teaching of World Religions, year group assemblies, trips to places of worship of other faiths and welcoming visitors from different cultures.

We encourage our children to take part in a range of events such as sports and choir where pupils engage and interact with pupils from other local schools with different backgrounds.

Children learn about different religions, their beliefs, places of worship and festivals. As part of the RE curriculum St. Vincent's hold separate themed weeks with a focus on other religions throughout the year. Work is shared with pupils across school through assembly and display. We endeavor to draw upon pupils within our school with different religions to share their own knowledge, understanding and personal experiences during these weeks as well as throughout the year e.g. Eid. Assemblies, themed weeks and class visits offer pupils enriched experiences to deepen their understanding, tolerance and knowledge of our culturally diverse community. The school celebrates the different cultures and languages spoken by our pupils, e.g. through encouraging them to converse in school, through sharing prayers in collective worship, through interaction with visitors, and on trips. Members of different cultures and faiths are made welcome and encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

Prevent Duty

Our school is aware of the need to be vigilant when it comes to extreme attitudes or behaviour of any kind and appropriate actions will be taken accordingly. Prevent training supports school staff to identify and support those who are susceptible to radicalisation. Prevent sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of other harms

such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs and physical and sexual exploitation. All staff is aware of the need to alert the designated safeguarding officers if they have any concerns. The designated safeguarding officers and all senior leaders have attended Prevent training and are aware of their role if they are alerted. Our overriding aim is to teach children to be resilient to such attitudes. This involves pupils being taught how to ask probing questions and make sound judgements for themselves about what is right and wrong.