



## St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Aston le Walls

*"a place of educational excellence with Christ at its centre"*

### British Values and Our Catholic Ethos

The government set out its definition of 'British values' in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011), which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalization of young people. British values are considered by the present government to be **democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those 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 promote values that are both Catholic and British, including: respect for the individual, democracy, individual liberty, respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. Our schools 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 December 2014).**

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we base our school values on the teachings of the Catholic Church and the promotion of Gospel values which are important to every aspect of the life of the school. This focus on the Gospel values gives our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today leading a successful and productive life.

Our Gospel values are rooted in the Beatitudes, the proclamation of Christ's Sermon on the Mount: 'Blessed are...' Whilst not definitive, the core values based on the Beatitudes are:

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"* Value:

**Dignity and Compassion**

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"*

Value: **Faithfulness and Integrity**

*"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"*

Value: **Humility and Gentleness**

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy"*

Value: **Forgiveness and Mercy**

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God"*

Value: **Purity and Holiness**

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"* Value:

**Tolerance and Peace**

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven"* Value: **Service and Sacrifice**

## **Promoting British Values at St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

### **Democracy**

At St Mary's Catholic School we provide children with the skills and opportunities to make informed decisions to elect members as class councillors. They share their class' views on different topics or issues at the half-termly School Parliament meetings where they can make a real difference as they can express their views and are listened to. The children in year 5 and 6 experience the British voting system through the election of a Head Boy and Head Girl. They make an informed choice, through their right to vote, following an election campaign. As a school we value the voice the children have and the ideas that they have, in lessons, in assemblies and throughout the school day. Pupil questionnaires also demonstrate our commitment to this.

### **The Rule of Law**

At St Mary's Catholic School we encourage children from an early age to contribute to their classroom rules and help pupils to distinguish right from wrong. We ensure school rules, playground rules, Esafety rules are clear and fair and that children understand the reasons for having them. Our children learn that living under the rule of law protects individuals and they develop approaches focused on reconciliation and justice to resolve conflicts. We teach children how there are consequences when laws are broken. Pupils are taught the values that underpin the laws we abide by, that they govern and protect us and the responsibilities that this involves. The school benefits from visits from Magistrates in the community, who visit annually in the Summer Term. Year 6 children also attend annually the Young Citizens Day where British values and making safe choices are explored in a variety of contexts.

### **Individual Liberty**

At St Mary's Catholic School we support pupils to develop their self-esteem and self-confidence by encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights. We have a strong anti-bullying culture. Our E-Safety lessons and Internet Safety Day, also cover how to make choices and understand their rights within a safe and caring environment.

**Mutual respect** At St Mary's Catholic School we believe everyone should be treated with respect and kindness, from the youngest member of our school to the oldest. This is an important part of our Catholic faith and is at the heart of our learning culture. We teach children to live as Jesus would have and to know that God loves us all equally.

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

At St Mary's Catholic School we help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life through the curriculum, especially during RE lessons and worship. We teach about other cultures and religions. Children learn about and visit places of worship that are important to different faiths and respect the views of the communities within these settings. The children also develop their passion of their own social responsibility, actively fundraising for local and international charities.

**Head Teacher: Mrs Laura Concannon**

**Chair of Governors: Mrs Rebecca Iley**

