St. Sebastian's C of E Primary School

Promoting British Values Policy

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Next review due by:	**May 2025**

Promoting British Values Policy

At St Sebastian's Church of England Primary School, we uphold and teach pupils about British Values which are defined as:

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

These values are a thread throughout our whole school although are specifically taught through our RE and PSHE curriculum and during Collective Worship.

Democracy

Democracy is evident through much of the children's work done in school. Pupil voice is a vital part of our ethos and we ensure that all children are heard. The school Faith Council are a crucial part in making sure that children are able to voice their opinions, heard and listened to. Pupils have regular opportunities to share their ideas and opinions through our weekly council meetings. Elections for this are undertaken annually and voted for by each child through a democratic voting system. Annual elections are head to vote in our Head Boy and Head Girl. Other elections for school representatives include junior road safety officers, the mini police and our young sport ambassadors.

The Rule of Law

The importance of rules and laws are consistently reinforced throughout school. Our system for behavior follows an agreed set of code which children were asked to take part in their creation and ownership of them. These now form a consistent behavior ladder system in every classroom, understood and supported by everyone in school. Children are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us. Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service are regular parts of our yearly calendar and help to reinforce the messages we promote.

We also have 7 core values that we promote throughout school. These were again devised by everyone in school and consistent in day to day school life.

To encourage and promote good behavior, attitude and work, we have devised a reward system followed throughout school enabling each child, group and class of children to be recognized and celebrated. We have success points, class credits and a weekly Shine assembly where success is recognized and given value.

Individual Liberty

Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices in school, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we provide boundaries for our children to make choices safely by providing a safe environment and a broad, balanced and creative curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise them safely, for example through our road safety and e-safety teaching. Pupils are given the freedom to attend extra-curricular clubs and events taking place within and after school.

Mutual Respect

Children are taught about and regularly reminded about the importance of respect. Pupils also learn about this through class and school opportunities that relate to what this means and how we can be respectful in all contexts.

Tolerance/celebration of different faiths and beliefs

This is developed through enhancing pupils understanding of their own beliefs and their place within a culturally diverse society. We give them opportunities to experience diversity within school as well as from outside visitors and trips. We have regular Collective Worships and discussions that explore prejudice and bullying and these issues are further explored particularly in RE and PSHE.

Our curriculum thread of 'Diversity and Cultural Understanding' ensures that tolerance of different faiths and cultures is interwoven throughout our curriculum.

We have added the word celebration to this aspect as we acknowledge the importance of teaching our children to be accepting and understanding when learning and understanding that there are other faiths and beliefs. We should not just tolerate them but celebrate and support them even if it is not our chosen faith or belief system.

At St Sebastian's School we are proud to have these values as part of our core belief system along with our Christian values which make up our whole school ethos.

At St Sebastian's we will actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including those expressing 'extremist' views.

Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

The Governing Body has a **zero-tolerance** approach to extremist behaviour for all school community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our children protects them from exposure to negative influences. St Sebastian's is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. At St Sebastian's, all staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

- Children are encouraged to adopt and live out our Christian Values. These complement the key British Values of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.
- Children are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through Collective Worships and through the elected school Faith Council members.
- Children are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet.
- Children participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background.
- Children's wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and extra- curricular learning opportunities.
- Children are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.

The Role of the Curriculum

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The RE (Religious Education), PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum and underpins the ethos of our school. Our Curriculum Thread of 'Diversity and Cultural Understanding' underpins this further. Children learn about all major faiths and visit places of worship wherever possible. They are also taught about how to stay safe when using the internet.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at St Sebastian's to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the Child Protection/ Safeguarding Lead Teachers.