



**BRITISH VALUES**

**OUR LADY OF PITY R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL - A  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**

**(January 2017)**

## Promoting British Values at Our lady of Pity R.C. Primary School (A Voluntary Academy)

The government set out its definition of 'British values' in the 'PREVENT' Strategy' (2011), which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalisation 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.

At Our Lady of Pity Roman Catholic School, we recognise, not only the importance of helping students to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the Common Good of all. 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. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why *British Values* are important. Our framework for understanding British values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all. We are guided by our mission statement Joy through Respect. Within this framework it would be impossible to overlook the government's view of British Values expressed as 'democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.'

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed *British Values* at Our Lady of Pity Roman Catholic School and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

### ***Democracy***

We have a school council with pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 meeting regularly to discuss issues. Every child on the school council is voted by their class. Through our curriculum children are taught about, and encouraged to respect, public institutions and services.

### ***The Rule of Law***

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Our Lady of Pity School. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and the Fire Service help reinforce this message.

### ***Individual Liberty***

At Our Lady of Pity School, pupils are actively encouraged to make independent choices, knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make informed choices. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights responsibilities and personal freedoms. They are shown how to do this, for example, through e-safety awareness or PSHE lessons. Our Lady of Pity School has an anti-bullying culture, and behaviour and safety policies are in place.

### ***Mutual Respect***

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. The school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments as well as extra-curricular activities such as music and sport. In line with our commitment to democracy, students are encouraged to voice their opinions in an environment where they can debate ideas. We encourage students to substantiate opinions and to realise the value of co-operation. Our emphasis on fairness and justice means that we ask our students to ensure that they look out for those who might be marginalised and disadvantaged.

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

Pupils develop understanding of their own beliefs and their place in a culturally diverse society. Explored in the context of our Catholic community, we educate children to understand how Christ's teachings and example guide us now to embrace diversity, deepening their understanding of faiths and beliefs different to their own.

The five mainstays of British rule are explored through assemblies and interactive communal displays throughout the week. Themes and issues are developed and learning is related to daily experience in school. Our approach is to put 'real' experience to the children, to invite free, respectful responses and to structure their learning from this starting point. 'First News' is used daily throughout the school to ensure that children are aware of national and global issues. Pupil voice is engaged and we learn through deep exploration of our values, on all levels: personal, spiritual, moral, cultural and national.