

British Values Statement

In June 2014, The Secretary of State for Education announced that schools would be required to actively promote British Values from September 2014. How well a school promotes such values is also part of the Ofsted school inspection process. Ofsted defines fundamental British Values as

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those with
 - Different Faiths
 - Different Beliefs

At Stratford St Mary Primary School, we are committed to actively promoting British Values and this forms part of our wider work in school with children in relation to their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC). At the heart of these values, lie good relationships in which teachers and students work together towards common goals.

Democracy

Democracy is an important value at our school and is embedded. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and regular questionnaires. We have a student council which meets regularly with the Headteacher to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council is genuinely able to effect change within the school. Every child on the student council is voted in by their class, the elections are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action.

Parents, Governors and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. For examples, we hold half termly Parent Forum meetings and there are regular questionnaires sent out to both parents and pupils.

We encourage pupils to take ownership of their own learning and progress, as well as their own behaviour. This encourages a sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated by our pupils on a daily basis.

Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced, often in assembly and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, pupils are taught, and reminded of, the school rules. Each class also discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind the laws that they govern and protect us, as well as 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, as well as in other subjects such as RE, when discussing different faiths and in sport where the rules and laws of the game have to be respected and followed.

Individual Liberty

At Stratford St Mary Primary School, pupils 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 informed choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our Online-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choosing the level of challenge in some lessons, becoming increasingly more involved in child-led learning, how they record, or participate in extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

The pupils and adults at Stratford St Mary Primary School know and understand that the expectation is to show respect to everyone and everything, whatever differences we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect through words and actions.

Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

Although Stratford St Mary Primary School is predominantly made up of White British pupils, tolerance of different faiths and beliefs is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity in our local community which is by large white British. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE.

As a whole school, pupils are encouraged to research and discover differences and similarities between ourselves others. Likewise we use opportunities such as the Olympics, Special Days for a variety of faiths and the World Cup to study and learn about life and culture in other countries.

In actively promoting British Values, we will also focus on, and be able to show how our work with pupils is effective in, embedding fundamental British values. Actively promoting also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.