Our Lady Immaculate
Catholic Primary School
An Academy

British Values

Promoting British Values.

The DfE 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."***

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated this year (2014). At Our Lady Immaculate these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Each year the children decide upon their class rules. All the children contribute to the drawing these up. Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a school council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council has its own budget and is able to genuinely effect change within the school. The council members for each year group are voted in by their class. The School Council representatives have the task of liaising with their class, sharing information and gathering opinions.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

In the summer term, using the UK Parliament Loan Box as a prop, each class take part in a Parliament Day where, through active learning, they have an opportunity to develop their debating skills whilst learning about the concept of law making and the democratic process.

Individual Liberty

Within 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 our children to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and 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 E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Through a planned workshop led by Amnesty International UK, Year 5 and 6 learn about Human Rights and the power of their personal voice in our changing world.

Mutual Respect

As a Rights Respecting School, mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect. Our school follows the 'Golden Rules', which are set within our Mission Statement, 'To Live, Love and Learn Together'.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Our Lady Immaculate is situated in an area which is not greatly culturally diverse, therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

At Our Lady Immaculate we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.