

Our Lady of the Wayside School – Values

Values Statement - British Values..... Gospel Values!

The Department for Education (2014) state that there is a 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 originally set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. These values fall into the following broad areas:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

As a Catholic school we have always had a set of values which forms our school’s mission and underpins and is integral to every aspect of the life of the school. These are based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and the promotion of Gospel values. At Our Lady of the Wayside School 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**

At Our Lady of the Wayside School we actively promote these values by:

- Working with parents and Our Lady of the Wayside Parish to give the children in our care a knowledge of their faith and to guide them in the practice of their faith.
- Encouraging the growth of a community based upon Gospel values, where each member has the opportunity to explore their faith.
- Providing an environment where each child is valued as an individual and has the opportunity to develop to their full potential.
- Developing a community where every members’ needs, talents and qualities are appreciated.
- Encouraging the development of a professional, motivated and mutually supportive staff who hold high expectations of our pupils.
- Setting and maintaining high standards of discipline, courtesy and general moral values which allow the whole school community to function effectively. Our aim is that each child can, in due course, take on a responsible role in society.
- Providing a non-sexist, non-racist atmosphere which engenders tolerance and respect for other races, religions and life-styles.
- Fostering links between home, school and parishes for the benefit of our children.

To summarise, as a Catholic School we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils' character and moral perspective, through the teachings of the Church. Our continued focus on the Gospel values will give our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today, and embed in them the building blocks of a future successful and productive life.

Promoting British Values at Our Lady of the Wayside School

Democracy

At Our Lady of the Wayside School we will:

- Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services.
- Teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- Include in the curriculum information on the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain.
- Encourage pupils to become involved in decision-making processes and ensure they are listened to in school.

- Hold ‘mock elections’ so pupils learn how to argue and defend points of view e.g. when electing representatives to the School Council for each class.
- Help pupils to express and present their views
- Model how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged.

The Rule of Law

At Our Lady of the Wayside School we will:

- Ensure school rules and expectations are clear and fair and that pupils understand the reasons for having rules.
- Help pupils to distinguish right from wrong.
- Help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals.
- Teach pupils aspects of both civil and criminal law and discuss how this might differ from some religious laws.
- Develop approaches focused on reconciliation and justice to resolve conflicts.

Individual Liberty

At Our Lady of the Wayside School we will:

- Support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights.
- Implement a strong anti-bullying culture - as enshrined in our policies for Anti-Bullying and Behaviour.

Respect and Tolerance

At Our Lady of the Wayside School we will:

- Promote respect for individual differences in all areas of learning and interaction.
- Help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.
- Challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behavior.
- Learn about religions different from that of our Catholic faith.
- Discuss differences between people, such as differences of family situations, such as looked-after children or young carers.

We will do this through the following types of activities:

Early Phase (Nursery to Year 1)

- Children democratically select class representatives for their school council.
- Children commemorate Remembrance Day understanding the symbol of the poppy.
- Children use opportunities to discuss British values as significant occasions or events arise e.g a royal wedding.

Middle Phase (Year 2 to Year 4)

- Children commemorate Remembrance Day understanding the significance of the poppy and the importance of reconciliation.
- Children use opportunities to discuss British values as significant occasions or events arise e.g a royal wedding.
- Children democratically select class representatives for their school council.
- Children debate and make decisions about their school through their school council.
- Children study **Florence Nightingale** and her impact on modern nursing.
- Children study **Nelson Mandella** and the civil rights movement in South Africa.
- Children study local democracy in Britain to include an interview with a local councilor.
- Children campaign on a local issue writing to the local council on an issue which they feel is important in their community.
- Children prepare and take part in a debate with other cluster schools to be held in Solihull's Council chambers.
- Children study **Robert Peel** linked to the history of the modern police service and to include a visit from the school community's police officer.

Upper Phase (Years 5 & 6)

- Children commemorate Remembrance Day understanding the importance of reconciliation and the lessons to be learned from history (linked to work on Anne Frank).
- Children use opportunities to discuss British values as significant occasions or events arise e.g a royal wedding, a general election etc.
- Children democratically select class representatives for their school council.
- Children debate and make decisions about their school through their school council.
- Children democratically select class representatives for their school council.
- Children study the suffragette movement and women rights.
- Children study **Martin Luther King** and the American civil rights movement.
- Children study democracy in Britain at a national level to include an interview with their MP (if available).
- Children study the history of Parliament and how it has changed over time, this will include a visit to the Houses of Parliament.
- Children study **Nicholas Owen** and the persecution of the Catholic church, to include a visit to Harvington Hall.
- Through the theme of (Let's survive on a desert island) pupils develop a set of rules for their community.
- Children study the justice system in Britain and the role of a jury.
- Children study the work of the magistrate court, to include a visit from a local magistrate.
- Children study the life of **Anne Frank** and the lessons we can learn from history.
- Children study the **Cadbury family** in order to develop a sense of the importance of philanthropy.

