



## **St Ambrose's Catholic Primary School**

### **Values and Ethos Statement**

***"We do our best by following Jesus"***

The Department for Education has introduced a statutory duty for schools to promote British Values more actively from September 2014, and to ensure they are taught in schools.

St Ambrose's Catholic Primary School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

The school follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. St Ambrose's is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five key British Values are:

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

The academy uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The ethos of our school is derived from Christian values which are at the heart of what we teach in school and encompass the five key values identified above. The following examples illustrate some of the many ways St Ambrose's seeks to instil British Values.

#### **Democracy**

Democratic values are an explicit part of the Catholic ethos of our school. Adults listen to the views of pupils and value their opinions. Pupils' voices can be heard through our School Council, pupil interviews and questionnaires and through the teaching of PSHE.

The children learn about democracy through formal lessons and assemblies, but also through their involvement in the election of members of the School Council and House Captains.

### **Rule of Law**

The importance of laws and rules are reinforced in the classroom as well as through school assemblies. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws – that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used. Assemblies and discussions in class are rooted in our Catholic faith and beliefs, and focus on recognising right from wrong.

### **Individual Liberty**

Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners and to make choices within a safe and supportive environment. A focus upon making the right choices is explicit through our assemblies and celebrated through the School's use of our 'Fruits of the Holy Spirit' tree. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedom and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global, and frequently initiate fund raising activities. Consideration and care for others is key to our Catholic faith, is evident in the ethos of our school, and is explicitly taught through our Religious Education curriculum and PSHE lessons.

### **Mutual Respect**

Our school's ethos and behaviour policy are based on Gospel Values, with the important commandment being, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. Assemblies promote respect for others and the importance of good manners. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honest and open communication with others, and fairness and justice. Pupils work collaboratively and value the opinions of others.

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

As a Catholic worshipping community children are taught that we are all created in the image and likeness of God and are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum and the spiritual life of the school. Assemblies and classwork promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.