

Our motto: 'Let your light shine... as you grow', (inspired by Matthew 5: 15-16)

Our vision: 'We nurture our pupils to be the best they can be in every way - in an inclusive and supportive environment, rooted in Christian teachings.'

ST MARY'S C.E. (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

BRITISH VALUES



Our Approach:

At St Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School, our Christian ethos and values underpin our commitment to helping every child flourish academically, socially, morally and spiritually. We believe that every child is unique, deserves to feel valued and belongs within our school community.

We actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. These values are woven throughout our curriculum, collective worship, relationships, school routines and wider experiences.

Our aim is to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain by helping them become respectful, responsible and active citizens. We encourage children to think critically, make informed choices, understand their rights and responsibilities, appreciate different perspectives and contribute positively to their community.

Democracy

We help pupils understand the importance of having a voice, listening to others and participating in decisions that affect their lives. Through opportunities such as pupil leadership roles voting, class discussions and school council activities, children learn that opinions matter and that decisions should be reached fairly. They are encouraged to express their views respectfully, listen to alternative perspectives and understand the importance of participation and representation.

The Rule of Law

Pupils learn that rules and laws help keep people safe, protect individual rights and enable communities to live together fairly. Through our school expectations, restorative conversations and curriculum learning, children develop an understanding of right and wrong, personal responsibility and the consequences of their actions. They also explore the role of public services and the importance of fairness, justice and accountability.

Individual Liberty

We encourage pupils to become confident, independent learners who can make informed and responsible choices. Children learn about their rights, personal freedoms and responsibilities, including how to keep themselves safe online and offline. Through our curriculum and pastoral support, pupils are encouraged to express their views, develop their interests, recognise healthy boundaries and seek help when they need it.

Mutual Respect

Respect is central to our Christian ethos and everyday school life. We teach children to treat others with kindness, friendship, trust, dignity and fairness, even when they have different opinions, experiences or backgrounds. Pupils learn to recognise and challenge bullying, prejudice, discrimination and unkind behaviour and to understand that everyone deserves to feel safe, welcome and included.

Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

As a Church of England school, we provide opportunities for pupils to explore Christianity and learn about other faiths, beliefs and worldviews. Through Religious Education, collective worship and wider curriculum experiences, children develop curiosity, empathy and an appreciation of the diversity within our local community and wider society. We encourage respectful dialogue and help pupils understand both the differences between people and the values we share.

Inclusion, Equality and Belonging

Our commitment to British values is closely linked to our responsibility to ensure that all pupils are treated fairly and have the opportunity to thrive. We promote equality, celebrate diversity and help children understand the importance of respecting people with different characteristics, identities, beliefs and circumstances.

We do not accept discrimination, prejudice or the exclusion of others. Pupils are supported to recognise unfairness, speak up appropriately and contribute to a school community in which everyone feels safe, respected and valued.

Preparing Pupils for Life in Modern Britain

British values are not taught in isolation. They are developed through our curriculum, relationships, collective worship, pupil participation and everyday experiences. We want our pupils to leave St Mary's with the knowledge, confidence and character to make responsible decisions, respect the rights of others, participate positively in society and contribute to a fair, inclusive and democratic community.

In this way, our Christian vision and the fundamental British values work together to help every child let their light shine.

Review Cycle – 2025 to 2028