

## **Teaching British Values**

### **St Giles CE Primary**

**September 2015**

The DfE have 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 (2015). At St Giles Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

#### **Democracy**

Democracy is an important value at our school.

Class and school rules are drawn up collaboratively with the children and every class signs up to these rules. At St Giles we are working towards becoming a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council meetings. The elections of members of the School Council is based on pupil votes. The children in the School Council are involved in making decisions in the school (such as choosing play equipment for lunchtimes and discussing how to improve the environment).

In the Autumn term, all the pupils have an opportunity to vote for our Year 6 Boy Bishop and Santa Lucia who hold positions of responsibility in the school.

To reflect the national voting in May 2015, we held our own General Election. Pupils in KS2 worked together in their own political parties to produce a charter, the Leader presented this to the rest of the school and all the pupils voted.

How we influence democracy is explored through topic work, PSHE and assemblies.

#### **The Rules of Law**

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced through all aspects of school life. 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. Many of these laws are taught through our curriculum which includes many safety aspects such as road safety, firework safety, e-safety and fire safety. We have links with our police community support officer.

School rules are reviewed regularly and the class rules are set at the beginning of each academic year.

Topic work has included The rules of law and how laws are made linked to history work (Anglos Saxons and Romans in KS2).

To encourage and promote positive behaviour, attitude and work, we have devised a reward system (merit points and team points) which is consistently followed throughout the school. Children are not only rewarded for achievement in curriculum areas (merit points), but for behaviour and effort in all aspects of life.

## **Individual Liberty**

Pupils at St Giles are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We provide boundaries for our children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and planned curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise these safely, for example through our e-safety teaching. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record their work, creative homework tasks or participation in after school clubs, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

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

As a Church of England Aided School we follow the locally agreed RE syllabus. Children learn 'about religion' and 'from religion' and we aim to promote tolerance and understanding of those of different faiths or no faith. This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity in the local and wider community.

Religious education lessons, assemblies and PSHE lessons actively challenge stereotypes and reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for each other no matter their ethnicity, beliefs, gender, disability, age or any other protected characteristics (as outlined in article 14 of Unicef's Rights of the child).

### **British Values in the curriculum**

Some examples studied at St Giles to promote "British values" are: learning about the make-up of the United Kingdom, the chronology of British History including knowledge and understanding of key events, people and the impact which they have on our society, Poppy Day celebrations where children purchase poppies and observe a minute's silence. As a whole school we have celebrated key events in the life of the Royal Family, 2012 Olympics and observations of British Saint's Days.

Upon leaving St Giles, pupils will understand their responsibilities as citizens of a democratic society and have an awareness of how they can maintain the underpinning core values whilst maintaining an awareness and respect for the culturally diverse society in which they live.

September 2015