



# **St Mary Magdalen's CPS**

## British Values Policy

Reviewed and revised March 2024. To be reviewed March 2025.

# Contents

## [Statement of intent](#)

1. [Legal framework](#)
2. [Roles and responsibilities](#)
3. [Aims and objectives](#)
4. [Democracy](#)
5. [The rule of law](#)
6. [Individual liberty](#)
7. [Mutual respect](#)
8. [Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs](#)
9. [Challenging views at odds with British values](#)
10. [Staff training](#)

## Statement of intent

This policy sets out the framework in which St Mary Magdalen's School will ensure that it actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

These values are officially taught through the RE and PSHE curriculum and are further nurtured through the school's ethos and promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding.

### 1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy takes into account the following legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the:
  - Equality Act 2010
  - Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
  - Ofsted School Inspection Handbook
  - DfE Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information
- 1.2. This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the school's:
  - Behavioural Policy

### 2. Roles and responsibilities

- 2.1. The headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.

- 2.2. Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.
- 2.3. Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Behavioural Policy.

### **3. Aims and objectives**

- 3.1. Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our pupils have:
  - An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
  - An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
  - An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence.
  - An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
  - An acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
  - An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

### **4. Implementation**

- St Mary Magdalen's uses Picture News weekly to ensure that British Values are expressly taught.
- A senior leader disseminates this information and relates it to Christian values to cover weekly in class assemblies.
- The value, the topic (usually related to current affairs) and the big question every week are shared with parents.

### **5. Impact**

#### **Democracy**

- 5.1. At St Mary Magdalen's School, pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard through pupil questionnaires and the pupil-elected school council.
- 5.2. Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

- 5.3. School offers children regular opportunities to take part in elections and vote in some school decisions.

### **The rule of law**

- 5.4. St Mary Magdalen's School has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect the school, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. All pupils are involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding.
- 5.5. Pupils are taught these values and the reasons behind laws, whether they govern the class, the school or the country, that are essential for their well-being and safety. Pupils are allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.
- 5.6. The school organises visits from authorities throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.
- 5.7. The school understands the importance of promoting British values through a comprehensive and unprejudiced curriculum.

### **Individual liberty**

- 5.8. At St Mary Magdalen's School, a safe and supportive environment is fostered, where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.
- 5.9. Pupils are taught about their rights and personal freedoms, and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through teaching on e-safety and PSHE lessons.

### **Mutual respect**

- 5.10. Respect forms a core pillar of St Mary Magdalen's School's ethos. Pupils are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and all members of staff with respect.
- 5.11. This is reinforced through our Behavioural Policy and posters throughout the school promoting mutual respect.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

- 5.12. St Mary Magdalen's School acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally-diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity.
- 5.13. Throughout the year, assemblies are held focussing on bullying, with reference to prejudice-based bullying, and discussion is encouraged.

- 5.14. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum.
- 5.15. The school encourages its pupils from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge with their peers to enhance their learning.

## **6. Challenging views at odds with British values**

- 6.1. The school openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and pupils, that is odds with British values.

## **7. Staff training**

- 7.1. At St Mary Magdalen's School, members of staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their thorough human resources induction.
- 7.2. Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the British Values Policy.
- 7.3. All staff do refresher training annually on the topic of Prevent.