

Promoting British Values at St David's School

It is the duty of St David's school to '*actively 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.*'"

At St David's School we take our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain very seriously. We want our children to become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. We therefore ensure that the 'fundamental British values' are introduced, discussed and actively promoted through the ethos and work of the school. Our broad curriculum provides excellent opportunities to deepen and strengthen understanding of these values, whilst developing the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of our children. All our PSHE lessons are based on the 'Jigsaw' scheme of work which also supports the British Values agenda.

The examples that follow are just some of the ways that 'British values' are embedded into our everyday life and curriculum at St David's.

Being Part of Britain:

At St David's we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of the local community. Alongside this, we value and celebrate living in, and being part of, Britain. In general terms this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year, for example, Harvest Festival during the autumn term, Remembrance Day, our Christmas celebrations and Easter.

We value and celebrate national events such as elections and royal events. In April 2021 we held a special assembly to remember the life of the Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and in May 2022 we all joined together for a special picnic and games on the field to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Some of our older children also made a large wall hanging in their textiles lessons to display in our hall. Another special assembly was held when Queen Elizabeth II died in September 2022 and in May 2023 we celebrated King Charles' coronation with another picnic and a 'St David's got Talent' competition.

As a school we also remember the four patron saints' days in assemblies. We particularly celebrate St David's Day with our poetry Eisteddfod and the opportunity for children from across the school to work together completing a variety of problem solving tasks

Democracy:

At St David's we value the voice of the child and promote democratic processes throughout the whole school.

At the beginning of the year, each class decides upon their own Class Rules and the rights associated with them.

Our School Council is a group of children who meet fortnightly to act as one voice for the children in the school. Its members, as well as class Eco reps, are children democratically elected every term by their fellow classmates to represent them. The School Council which is led by the Head Boy and Girl (with support from a member of staff and the Deputy Head) is actively involved in suggesting practices which impact on the day to day running of the school (for example introducing large PE kit bags) and events (such as a second hand book sale and our St David's Got Talent competition). All children in Forms 1-6 have the opportunity to have their voices heard through the Class Representatives who feed ideas to the School Council.

Children also have an opportunity to express their opinions in Pupil Voice groups and each Form Teacher has different ways in which the children make their voices heard in their classroom e.g. through Circle Time and class discussions.

During national elections we explain the leaders and the views of the main parties to children during assemblies and PSHE lessons. We also hold our own version of the elections at the same time.

Through the curriculum, the origins of democracy are explored through historical research of Ancient Greece, Roman civilisations, the Monarchy and Government. As part of their studies Form 5 visit the Houses of Parliament and we have also had a visit from our local MP in recent years. In all lessons, children are encouraged to express and argue their points of view in an atmosphere of respect. We try to challenge injustice through our curriculum e.g. in our assembly planning we acknowledge Black History Month every year and look at the lives of people such as Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks.

Surveys/questionnaires of children, parents and staff are carried out biennially to gather opinions about all aspects of the school and results influence the School Development Plan.

When there are incidents of conflict or bullying among children, the school takes these issues seriously and addresses them swiftly. It operates a system of restorative practice to resolve conflicts in peaceful and fair ways. Every person involved has a voice in this process.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced every day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through our regular school assemblies.

We have high expectations about pupil conduct and this is reflected in our clear code of conduct for all children (The St David's Way) which is on display in every area of the school. All children are aware of our Positive Behaviour policy and procedures and each class draws up their own Class Rules in line with this. Children are taught about right from wrong and about making good choices, even when it is difficult. Children are taught that there are positive and negative consequences to their actions, and that breaking school rules has clear and predictable outcomes, as with British law.

Our Year 6 children are given positions of responsibility such as monitors in order to enforce and promote our high expectations of behaviour.

Children 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. To help us reinforce this message, we organise and encourage visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire Service and Road Safety Officers etc. We also place an emphasis on sports and promoting the rules and laws of team games.

Through our school's values, RE curriculum, collective worship and PHSE programme, children are taught how to earn trust and respect, and are supported to develop a strong sense of morality.

Individual Liberty:

St David's aims to help each pupil achieve self-confidence, initiative and independence. We actively teach children to take responsibility for their behaviour and children are encouraged to make choices for themselves, knowing that they are in a supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for children to make these informed choices, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education.

Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely. This is explored, for example, through our Online Safety curriculum, lessons run by the NSPCC, assemblies and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they present or record work, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, children are given the

freedom to exercise their individual choice. They also learn about personal responsibility, choices, ambitions and aspirations.

All children work towards rewards such as earning Dragorys (our school currency), Star of the Week certificates and Jigsaw Gems. These are to incentivise excellent behaviour, a positive attitude to learning and responsible actions. Children are very aware that their choices affect outcomes for themselves personally, as well as for their House.

We try to promote both staff and children as good role models and we take opportunities to challenge stereotypes whenever the opportunity arises. We aim to be truly inclusive, so that all children can participate fully in all areas of the curriculum.

Opportunities are also taken to explore that fact that, with individual liberty and freedom comes responsibilities to the local community and the wider world (for example our relationships with our immediate neighbours, the work of the Eco Council).

Mutual Respect:

Much of our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around our core values that are described in 'The St David's Way'. These can be summed up in the Golden Rule: 'We treat others as we would have them treat us'. Children have been part of discussions and assemblies explaining what 'The St David's Way' means and how it is demonstrated. Posters around the school promote respect for others and good manners, and these are reinforced through the classroom rules, PSHE lessons and assemblies, as well as our Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies.

Children are taught to be co-operative, collaborative and supportive and to look for similarities, while being understanding of differences. Children learn to respect their own rights and those of others. Staff and children treat each other with respect.

The children are actively encouraged by staff to befriend new or 'lonely' children in order to promote respect and friendships. The school annually support events such as 'Anti Bullying Week' and we promote respect through Form Time and Circle Time.

The school provides opportunities for children to learn to respect others through our curriculum enrichment days e.g. visits from people from other cultures and traditions e.g. Diwali Day, African Music etc.

We also promote respect through having an active Accessibility Plan where we promote inclusion. We address issues related to disability in assemblies and PSHE lessons and we regularly support charities who promote respect and tolerance e.g. Children In Need, Comic Relief etc.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

At St David's we believe it is very important for children to have an understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and to have opportunities to experience such diversity. We value the multi-cultural and multi-faith backgrounds of our children and families and we actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Assemblies, themed days, visits and workshops offer children enriched experiences to deepen their understanding, tolerance and knowledge of our culturally diverse community.

Our RE curriculum promotes an understanding of, and respect for, people of other faiths or none and other cultures and lifestyles. Children learn about the six major world religions, their beliefs, places of worship and festivals. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes. Local religious leaders make visits to the school and children have the opportunity to visit places of worship. Assemblies and RE lessons mark and celebrate different religious festivals such as Easter, Diwali and Ramadan.

As necessary, assemblies, Form time and PSHE lessons are used to discuss and follow up issues such as stereotyping, prejudice and prejudice-based bullying.

Prevent

Our duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism through adherence to 'The Prevent Strategy' ensures that any dissent or opposition to these fundamental British Values is not tolerated at St David's School.

All staff are aware of the need to be vigilant when it comes to extreme attitudes or behaviour of any kind and that appropriate action will be taken accordingly. All staff have undertaken 'Prevent' training, and are aware of the need to alert the Designated Safeguarding Leads if they have any concerns.