



British Values Policy

Date policy reviewed: March 2025

Signed by	Date
Headteacher:	
Trust:	

British Values Policy

At St Thomas' C of E Academy, we develop and promote British Values throughout our school and within our curriculum.

"We want every school to promote the basic British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs." Lord Nash

A key part of our plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

British Values

- The Rule of Law
- Democracy
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs

To do this our children will develop;

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
 - An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
 - An acceptance that people having different faiths and beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of discriminatory behaviour
 - An understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination
- The mission statement and aims of the school clearly reflect these values, and the whole school strives to uphold them.

Our School Aims

Our aims stand upon three fundamental principles;

- To provide every child with the life skills to become successful learners who reach their full potential.
- To provide a safe, supportive, stimulating and inclusive environment where every child is recognised, cared for, encouraged and valued.
- St Thomas' will actively ensure the involvement of the whole community, particularly families, who have a vital role in supporting their children's education. This partnership will encourage healthy and positive attitudes motivating children to become life-long learners.

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody. Alongside this, we value and celebrate 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 and school trips throughout the academic year. We also value and celebrate national focusses, recent examples being; Macmillan Coffee Morning, National Storytelling Week, Chinese New Year, Children’s Mental Health week and Safer Internet Day, with many more opportunities planned in throughout the year to collaborate with the wider community and world e.g. Children in Need, Red Nose day and World Book Day.

Further to this, children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Two specific examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

Geographically: Our rivers, coasts and seaside holiday topics ensure that children have a better understanding of what Britain is, learning more about:

- its coasts, rivers and mountains
- where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world
- Historically: Key moments in British history are studied in the topics such as World War 2 and significant historical figures.

The table below shows how our Gospel values link with school British values.

Term	Gospel Value	British Value
Autumn 1	Thankfulness	Democracy
Autumn 2	Fairness	Respect and Tolerance
Spring 1	Forgiveness	Rule of Law
Spring 2		
Summer 1	Trust	Individual Liberty
Summer 2	Celebration	

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools (From April 2024)

At St Thomas’, we promote fundamental British values through our ethos, the curriculum, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and through our work as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. We reinforce and promote British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs as demonstrated below:

Democracy

UNCRC Article 12 - Every child has the right to be heard.

Article 2 - Every child has the right to be treated equally and with respect

The children (from September 2024 will) decide upon their class charter and the rights associated with these. The role of the adults, or ‘duty bearers’, will also be made clear on the charter. A group of pupils are nominated as UNICEF Ambassadors to discuss rights and fundraising, and to present ideas at assemblies on whole school issues. Our schools RRSA lead is Mrs Ashton.

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a school and eco council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised by pupils. Two council members for each year group are voted by each class.

Children have an annual questionnaire to put forward their views about the school.

The Rule of Law

UNCRC Article 19 - Every child has the right to be protected from harm

Article 1 - Every child has the right to be treated equally and with respect.

Article 29 - Every child has the right to an education

The importance of laws is consistently reinforced throughout the school day. 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. The home/ school agreement sets out the contract between the school, the child and their parents. The class charter sets out expected behaviour and associated rights in each class. Circle time and RE lessons are used as an opportunity to discuss difficult situations that benefit from whole class discussion. Keeping safe when using the internet is regularly discussed with children in computing lessons and in assemblies.

Individual Liberty

UNCRC Article 19 - Every child has the right to be protected from harm.

Article 12 - Every child has the right to be heard

Article 2 - Every child has the right to be treated equally and with respect

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; for example in computing through our E-Safety policy.

St Thomas' pupils are given the freedom to make many choices, be this in class, through their choice of learning strategies, in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and through fundraising or sporting opportunities.

Mutual Respect

UNCRC Article 2 - Every child has the right to be treated equally and with respect

Article 29 Every child has the right to an education

As a UNICEF Rights Respecting School, mutual respect is at the heart of our ethos and values.

Children learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. There are many opportunities to develop SMSC across the curriculum. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

UNCRC Article 2 - Every child has the right to be treated equally and with respect

Article 14 - Every child has the right to practice their own religion

Article 30 - Every child has the right to practice their own culture

Within our school we constantly promote tolerance of our communities, languages, faiths and beliefs by:

Our Religious Education syllabus, Personal, Social, Health and Emotional curriculum and Rights Respecting School initiative reinforce our commitment towards a tolerant society.

The Rights Respecting Schools Award is a Unicef UK programme that aims to put children's rights at the heart of schools in the UK

