**British Values Policy**

Through the teaching of the Gospel Values, St. Mary’s Catholic Primary School embraces and promotes the teaching of British Values.

We recognise these values as being

* Democracy
* Rule of Law
* Individual Liberty
* Mutual Respect
* Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Within St. Mary’s we create an outstanding, stimulating and challenging environment in which we nurture and challenge our community, to achieve a clear understanding of the Core Values through:

* **C**ooperation
* **A**chievement
* **R**espect
* **E**njoyment

These values are actively promoted through our broad and balanced curriculum which includes opportunities to explore the values in depth, ensuring equality and excellence for all children.

**Democracy**.

Children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. This promotes the democratic process, fosters the concept and application of freedom of speech and the value of group action in addressing needs and concerns. The election of one child from Year Six to represent each year group in school takes place each year and is organised through pupil vote. Children’s views are also sought through a questionnaire on a wide range of matters including enjoyment of school, quality of learning, standards of teaching, behaviour and matters related to safety. We use the outcomes of the survey to make adjustments and improvements for the children as it feeds to our School Development Plan.

Within our daily teaching we aim to:

* Provide children with a broad knowledge of and promote respect for British institutions.
* Teach children how they can influence decision making through the democratic process in school and ensure they are listened to.
* Develop the children’s ability to learn how to argue and defend points of view.
* Help children to express their views in a variety of situations.

**Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, including those governing the individual, the class and the whole school, are consistently reinforced throughout the school year. The children understand these laws as ‘Golden Rules’ and were drawn up by themselves. Children are taught the values and the reasons behind British laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that ensue from them and the consequences when laws are broken. At the start of each school year, teachers work with their class to draw up age appropriate class rules that all class members agree to. Children also understand that working within the agreed rules brings its own rewards and this is demonstrated for example through our Merit system and Praise Assembly which is held every Friday afternoon.

Within our daily teaching we aim to:

* Ensure that school rules and expectations are clear and fair.
* Help children distinguish right from wrong.
* Help children to understand how and where rules are made and to respect the law.
* Help children to understand that living under the rule of law protects us as individuals.
* Help children to understand that there is a difference between religious and criminal law.

**Individual Liberty**

At St Mary’s, children 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 children to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised to exercise these safely, for example, through our E- Safety and PSD lessons. They are given the freedom to make choices such as choosing to take part in the wide range of extra-curricular activities the school has to offer.

Within our daily teaching we aim to:

* Support children to develop their self- knowledge, self- esteem and self- confidence.
* Encourage children to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights.
* Challenge stereotypes.
* Implement a strong anti-bullying culture.

**Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

Respect is one of our Core Values at St Mary’s. Through class and whole school activities and discussion children have a good understanding of what respect means and how it is shown. Our class rules, Golden Rules and Behaviour Policy thoroughly reinforce this ethos. Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs is encouraged also through our ethos of respect and through enhancing children’s understanding of their place within a culturally diverse society. Within our RE scheme, They Way, The Truth and the Life, children study the background and practices of a range of faiths including Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Jewish, allowing pupils to have a deeper understanding of their own faith as well as awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities. Discussions in RE and PSD lessons at an age appropriate level also gives children opportunities to consider the reasons for the consequences of religious and racial intolerance and prejudice- based bully.

Within our daily teaching we aim to:

* Promote respect for individual differences.
* Help children to acquire and understanding of, and respect for their own and other cultures and ways of life.
* Help children to challenge prejudice and discriminatory behaviour
* Discuss differences between people such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability etc.

St Mary’s strives to support and nurture children to live harmoniously in their diverse world.

November 2015

Signed: **……………………………………….**Chair of Governors Date:

Signed: **……………………………………….**Headteacher Date: