

Promoting Fundamental British Values

RATIONALE

- St Bede's School acknowledges its responsibility to advance the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of its pupils. This includes the requirement to actively promote fundamental British values.
- Forms of collective worship, establishing a strong school ethos supported by effective relationships throughout the school, and providing relevant activities beyond the classroom are all ways of ensuring this development.
- As we also teach about Catholic canon law, we also explore the relationship between state and religious law.

FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

- We should promote the four fundamental British values of:
 - ✓ DEMOCRACY (including equality, class, consensus, fairness and representation)
 - ✓ THE RULE OF LAW (including rules, regulations, decrees, directives and principles)
 - ✓ INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY (including rights, responsibilities, freedom and independence)
 - ✓ MUTUAL RESPECT & TOLERANCE (including faith, belief, value, opinion and acceptance)
- Actively promoting these values means challenging all opinions/behaviours contrary to them, and attempts to promote systems that undermine them are completely at odds with our duty to provide SMSC development.

PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF PROMOTING FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

- that citizens can influence decision-making via democratic processes.
- that the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- that police and armed forces are held to account through Parliament, whereas courts maintain independence.
- that freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- that people have different faiths/beliefs (or none) to oneself and should be accepted/tolerated.
- that identifying and combatting prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour is important.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS THAT ST BEDE'S SCHOOL TAKES IN ITS PROVISION

- employing age-related material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries.
- ensuring all children have a voice that is listened to, demonstrating how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as house meetings or committees whose members are voted for by the pupils.
- using opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections to promote fundamental British values and provide pupils with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view.
- engaging with a wide range of teaching and learning resources from a variety of sources to help all pupils understand the scope of world and personal faiths.
- considering any extra-curricular activity and endeavour, including those run directly by St Bede's School pupils, which may positively promote fundamental British values.

It is important to note:

it is not necessary for St Bede's School or any individual to promote teachings, beliefs or opinions that conflict with their own, but nor is it acceptable for us to promote discrimination against people/groups on the basis of their belief/opinion/background.