

Promoting British Values at St Michael's Community Academy



The DfE have recently reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to 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."

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated this year. At St Michael's Community Academy these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Each year the School Council representatives are chosen in a democratic vote by members of each class. Each class has one male and one female representative. The School Council meets regularly to discuss ideas and issues on a given agenda. The School Council writes its own action plan and is given money from the schools budget for improvement. The School Council has also organised whole school fund raising events for selected charities.

Each year two representatives from the school are democratically elected to hold the position of Pupil Parliamentarian for the St Bart's Pupil Parliament. The St Bart's Pupil Parliament consists of representatives from each school within our Multi Academy Trust.

The parliament meets each half term to discuss ways in which we can all work together across the Trust to improve our schools, organise events across the Trust and to raise funds for charities. At the start of each academic year, the parliament meets to identify 3 key objectives to work on throughout the year, in conjunction with each school's council. School Councils can then meet to share how they are working to support these and demonstrate the impact that these are having in

their schools. This ensures a clear dialogue between School Councils and the Pupil Parliament.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at St Michael's. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the academy. These are our Golden Rules. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities, such as, the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message. 'Rules', 'Right and Wrong' and 'Laws' are taught and embedded as part of the academy's SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) and P4C (Philosophy for Children) curriculum which is delivered throughout the academy.

Individual Liberty

At St Michael's, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As an academy we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, for example, whether it is through choice of challenge, or simply by choosing to participate in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities.

Mutual Respect

Our motto at St Michael's is 'Courtesy, Consideration and Respect' and our academy ethos and behaviour policy have these core values firmly at their heart. Pupils have been part of discussions and class assemblies related to what mutual respect means and how it is shown. The school ethos and aims promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our Golden Rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Our Kiva lessons focusing on bullying have been an area whereby the academy has placed a strong focus and provided children with a variety of assemblies, lessons and circletimes to help them to reflect upon and understand the impact of bullying others.