

British Values

St Gregory's Catholic Middle School is committed to serving its local national and international community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing landscape of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within any environment are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them. Our school fosters a strong sense of belonging both to the school community and as a citizen of Britain with the responsibilities that citizenship brings.

The school has policies in place regarding Equalities, which guarantee that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. It seeks to serve all so that everyone feels a sense of belonging.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 'Prevent Strategy' – values of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The school uses opportunities to promote these values across the curriculum including PSHE, Assemblies and is embedded in the rich ethos of our school.

Examples of actions taken and opportunities provided at St Gregory's Catholic Middle School to promote British Values:

The following is not an exhaustive list, but provides some examples as to the different actions and provision that we have in school:

- In suitable parts of the curriculum, as appropriate for the age of pupils, material is included 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. There are explicit units in both the Year 7 and Year 8 PHSE and History schemes of work on democracy (Year 7: Is Voting the best way for people to have their say?) and human rights (Year 6: Human Rights) and the monarchy (History Years 7 & 8);
- We ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for annually by the pupils. The election of the School Council reflects democracy in action. Further examples of pupil voice include School Council meetings with the Senior Leadership team; pupil consultation on the quality of teaching and learning (through the use of pupil focus groups during reviews of curriculum provision, teaching and learning evaluations): and through formal and informal consultations with pupils on issues which affect them directly.
- We use 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; pupils in Year 7 work on persuasive speech writing
- We promote pupil leadership through the appointment of a Junior Leadership Team comprising of Head Boy / Head Girl and Deputies. Year 8 pupils apply and are, if successful, appointed as prefects – enabling them to lead and support other members of the school community.
- We use teaching resources from a wide variety of sources across the whole curriculum (and particularly in English, RE, Geography, History and PHSE) to help pupils understand a range of faiths, beliefs and attitudes, whilst emphasising British Law and tolerance.
- We encourage pupils to lead extra-curricular activities, including ICT club and reading buddies.
- We provide regular opportunities for spiritual, student reflections which have sought to identify and foster British and Gospel values through a process of consultation and collaboration.
- We take great pride in the sense of belonging and welcome, which is a characteristic hallmark of the British culture.