

British Values

At St Vincent's we focus on the whole development of our children and we believe our Mission Statement encompasses British Values. It is essential that all children grow up free from bullying and discrimination. At St Vincent's we actively promote the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of all our pupils. These same values can be found underpinning the British Values that the government has set as a priority. British values have always been an important part of St Vincent's ethos and that they are enshrined in the school's Mission Statement. (see below)

Mission Statement:

God's children are the focal point of our school community. We strive to create a friendly, enjoyable working atmosphere based on Christ's word, where communication between home, school and parish is of paramount importance.

We aim to provide a Catholic education for our children, in which Christian values are shared and lived by all. We work to provide committed teaching, giving due regard to the requirements of the National Curriculum. Our school offers a secure and caring environment where there is equality of opportunity for each child to realise his or her potential.

We seek to enable children to grow in independence, to value a healthy lifestyle both physically and emotionally and to have respect for themselves and others. Children are encouraged to aim for the highest standards of behaviour and to foster an awareness of moral and social issues within our own community and in the wider world.

We aim to develop understanding citizens of the 21st century who recognise the need to participate in a caring and responsible way for the sustainability of our world.

The government's definition of British Values is;

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Democracy

We give the children opportunities to view their ideas, which is valued and listened to. We have a democratically elected school council which is active throughout the year, where representatives put forward ideas from their class. Parents are encouraged to share their ideas and are listened to. Opportunities are given for in depth work on democracy.

The Rule of Law

At the start of each year children discuss the importance of rules and why they exist. Children respond to rewards and sanctions and know the reasoning behind them.

Individual Liberty

At St Vincent's we believe that God made each child and that they are unique. We encourage them to celebrate their individuality, while at the same time respecting other people's differences. They do this in a safe and caring environment. We help them develop a self awareness that encompasses their own personal safety, and a concern for others. All children are taught the importance of healthy living and making the right choices.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is at the heart of St Vincent's. The gospel value 'Love one another as I have loved you' is

taught from the first days from when the children enter into the school. We believe each person should be treated with respect regardless of faith, gender, culture belief or differences. Each is to be valued and appreciated.

The Prevent Strategy

In addition to the above areas of British Values we place high priority on the safeguarding of our children from extremist views and violence. Schools are obliged to make a statement to parents, informing them of the steps being taken to ensure that pupils do not become embittered and resentful of other faiths and cultures through a lack of knowledge and understanding. Our values and ethos as a school is one of respect for all. Our curriculum, which promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of each child, helps prepare them for the wider challenges that they will meet throughout their lives. We promote in RE respect and tolerance of other faiths.

If the school is concerned about any child we will deal with that through our safeguarding policy and will take all appropriate measures.