

British Values Policy

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER:

What does the Lord ask of you?

To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6vs.8

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Statement of Intent

In our school, our Christian vision shapes all we do. All members of the school community are committed to upholding the St Michael's Church of England Christian vision:

- to show love, care, and kindness to all in our community
- to value what we have and to share with others
- to enable everyone to achieve their full potential.

St Michael's Church of England High School understands the importance of supporting pupils to develop the skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in, and contribute positively to, life in modern Britain.



This policy sets out the framework in which St Michael's Church of England High School will ensure that we actively promote the fundamental British values of:

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

These values are officially taught throughout the curriculum; however, the school recognises the importance of integrating the teaching of these values throughout all aspects of students' educational life, including through:

- collective worship assemblies
- extracurricular activities
- wider opportunities, e.g., educational visits and work experience
- literature available at the school
- the promotion of spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) understanding.

Signed by:

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|
|  _____ | Chair of Governors | Date: <u>03/10/2024</u> |
|  _____ | Headteacher | Date: <u>03/10/2024</u> |

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| Date of adoption | January 2015 |
| Date of review | 3 rd October 2024 |
| Review date | October 2025 |

1. Legal framework

1.1 This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Ofsted (2023) School Inspection Handbook
- DfE (2014) 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools'

1.2 This policy is conducted in conjunction with our other policies:

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Student Equality, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedures
- Prevent Duty Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 The governing board is responsible for:

- the overall implementation of this policy
- ensuring that British values are upheld throughout the school
- holding executive leaders to account for their performance regarding British values

2.2 The Headteacher is responsible for:

- ensuring that all staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy.
- ensuring that the appropriate procedures are in place to conduct these methods.
- disciplining staff who do not uphold British values, in line with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.

2.3 Staff are responsible for:

- modelling behaviour that respects and adheres to the fundamental British values.
- ensuring that students feel as though their views count and supporting them to develop positive self-esteem.
- implementing and enforcing this policy and other policies and procedures that reinforce the British values, e.g., the Behaviour Management Policy.

2.4 Teaching staff are responsible for:

- ensuring that their lessons are inclusive of and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.
- ensuring that teaching methods are designed to bolster students' self-esteem and that all students are given the opportunity to speak and offer their views.
- ensuring that lessons discuss, pull examples from and are respectful of a diverse array of cultures.

2.5 Students are responsible for:

- treating each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Behaviour Management Policy

3. Aims and objectives

3.1 Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our students have:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety
- an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence
- an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination

4. Democracy

4.1 Students will be taught, in an age-appropriate way, the advantages and disadvantages of democracy, as well as how democracy works in the UK.

4.2 Staff will ensure that pupils feel as though their views and opinions matter and will be given opportunities to talk about their feelings, e.g., through pastoral support, and the RSHE and PSCE curriculums.

4.3 At St Michael's Church of England High School, students have numerous opportunities to have their views heard through student questionnaires and Student Voice.

4.4 Our students are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

5. The rule of law

5.1 St Michael's Church of England High School has high regard for the laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Students will be taught these values and the reasons behind laws that are essential for their wellbeing and safety. The school will organise visits from authorities throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.

5.2 Students will also be taught to understand the importance of their own behaviour, the impact that their behaviour has on others, and the consequences of their behaviour, through the implementation and enforcement of the school Behaviour Management Policy.

5.3 All students will be involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding. Students will be allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.

6. Individual liberty

- 6.1 At St Michael's Church of England High School, we foster a safe and supportive environment where students are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extracurricular club, students have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.
- 6.2. Students are taught about their rights and personal freedoms and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through our teaching on online safety, RSHE, and PSCE lessons.

7. Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

- 7.1 The school will ensure that respect for all individuals, regardless of their protected characteristics and/or backgrounds, is promoted throughout the school. Students will be taught about the importance of diversity in British society and will learn about different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds throughout the curriculum and extracurricular activities.
- 7.2 Respect forms a core pillar of St Michael's Church of England High School's ethos. Students are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and staff with respect.
- 7.3 Staff members will ensure that they always treat everyone with respect and will ensure that pupils learn to treat each other and all members of staff with respect as well.
- 7.4 This is reinforced through our Behaviour Management Policy, which will sanction disrespectful behaviour and reinforce positive and respectful behaviour.
- 7.5 The school acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through students' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and the opportunity for students to experience such diversity.
- 7.6 Throughout the year, assemblies are held focusing on bullying, with reference to prejudice-based bullying, and discussion with students is encouraged.
- 7.7 Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is supported by the RE and PSCE curriculum.
- 7.8 The school encourages its students from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge and experiences with their peers, as freely as they feel comfortable to, to enhance their learning.

8. Challenging views at odds with British values

- 8.1 The school openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and students, which are at odds with British values.
- 8.2 The school does not tolerate discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour. Any students displaying this behaviour will be disciplined in line with the Behaviour Management Policy.
- 8.3 Referrals regarding students who may be at risk of radicalisation will be made in accordance with the school's Prevent Duty Policy.

9. Staff training

9.1 Members of staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction and through additional training.

9.2 Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the values in this policy.

10. Review

10.1 This policy will be kept under regular review by the Deputy Headteacher, Curriculum, Teaching & Learning and Assistant Headteacher: Student Welfare and Designated Safeguarding Lead and amended as appropriate to reflect any changes to regulations.

10.2 The next scheduled review date for this policy is October 2025.