

# ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL



## British Values Statement

Written by	Date	Ratified by	Date
M. Ellis	2022	Governors	2022

To be reviewed	Annually	Every 3 Years
Reviewed on	Reviewed by	Next review date
October 2025	A.McAuliffe	Oct 2028

*With Jesus alive in our hearts, we celebrate each other and learn together as a family.*

In accordance with the Department of Education we aim, *“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation 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.”* St Helen’s Infants takes opportunities to actively promote British Values ensuring our children leave prepared for life. We also run a cultural calendar throughout the year establishing and promoting different aspects of British Values throughout our school.

### **Democracy**

Democracy is at the centre of our school values and involves all stakeholders. Pupils are listened to by adults, and are taught to listen to each other, being respectful of the right of every individual opinions and voice. Pupils also have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, who are elected in each class from EYFS – Year 2 by the pupils. Meetings are held half termly and children report back in their classes to share ideas and express opinions. Pupil voice is carried out by all subject leaders. As the community is a key curriculum driver, parent’s governors and all staff are involved in contributing their opinions and improving the school on a regular basis.

### **The rule of law**

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Our behaviour policy reflects our aim to teach children about the importance of respect, justice and consequence in a nurturing supportive environment that develops the whole child.

### **Individual liberty**

Pupils are actively encouraged to make considered choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young learners through our provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms learning how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Within the curriculum we promote enquiry based learning that enables children to become independent, resilient learners. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

### **Mutual respect**

Respect is central to our school ethos. Staff model this each day and relationships between staff, pupils and staff and the wider school community foster respect. Respect is part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Within the classroom, use of talk partners, group work and team work enables pupils to develop and to work in harmony with others regardless of differences in attainment or gender. Working Walls

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promote respect for one another's work and children are celebrated for being respectful through our positive behaviour policy. This is reiterated through all our classroom and learning rules. We emphasise the right and responsibility of every child to learn. Ensuring that children understand that they need to consider their actions carefully, so that they do not detract from learning and therefore affect others rights to learn.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

Pupils are taught an understanding of their place in a culturally diverse modern society and given opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies/Collective Worship and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. With the curriculum children have the time to reflect on their own beliefs and discuss their opinions with others so their spiritual development is enhanced. The school provides a culture where pupils can do this, celebrating diversity, embedding tolerance and actively promoting British Values. Actively promoting also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views. We are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our pupils. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

### **British Values Overview**

At St Helen's Infants we offer a varied and diverse cultural calendar ensuring cultural capital for all our learners, with the aim of enabling them to lead successful and productive lives in modern day Britain. Our events range from Black History month and International Women's Day to Chinese New Year and British Values Week, encompassing a rich and varied curriculum that all children, including our most venerable learners, can access. In addition we have British Values across our everyday school life.

Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of school council</li> <li>• Children write and sign own class rules</li> <li>• Pupil voice interviews with subject leaders</li> </ul>
Rule of Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links with local MP</li> <li>• Behaviour Policy and consistent approach across the school</li> <li>• E-safety curriculum and E Safety Week/Anti Bullying Fire safety visits</li> <li>• School Uniform</li> </ul>
Individual Liberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class council meetings</li> <li>• Star of the week assembly</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-differentiation and challenge in lessons</li> <li>• Choice of recording during lessons</li> <li>• Choice at lunchtime</li> <li>• Non uniform days</li> <li>• Prayer Leader system</li> <li>• Extra-curricular clubs</li> </ul>
Mutual Respect / Tolerance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of fair play in school</li> <li>• Links with other schools</li> <li>• RSHE / RE / PSHE curriculum</li> <li>• Excellent links with local Church</li> <li>• Harvest celebration Assemblies</li> <li>• Charity events</li> <li>• Local community events</li> </ul>

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