

# Fifteen Minute Focus

## British Values



**Democracy   Individual Liberty   Rule of Law   Mutual Respect**  
**Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs**



In June 2014, the Government emphasised the important role that British values can play in education. How well a school promotes these values is now an aspect of Ofsted's inspection process and considered the responsibility of every member of staff and governor.

Although this is something which has developed in its significance for schools, it is not something new at St Paul's. We promote these values in everything we do - during assemblies, RE, PSHE, and through many other

aspects of the curriculum and daily life in school. These values are integral to our vision and ethos.

We actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to these values, including 'extremist' views. We recognise that the values we espouse are not unique to Britain and acknowledge that they differ in no way from the values of the many countries and the cultural backgrounds represented by members of our school family.

### BEING PART OF BRITAIN

We value the diverse heritage of the members of our community and alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means we celebrate key events in the Church of England calendar such as Harvest Festival, Easter and Christmas. We celebrate national events such as Royal Weddings, talk about topical issues such as the Rugby World Cup and the hosting of the Olympics, and we reflect upon national experiences such as Britain's involvement in WWI and WWII.

Through Geography and History our pupils learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives, whether it be about where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world, or key moments in history and significant historical figures. All of which contribute to helping children develop their knowledge and understanding of life in modern Britain.

Our Curriculum Overview document maps in detail subjects being taught across the school, including where these link explicitly to British values.

### DEMOCRACY

**Pupil voice** impacts significantly on our school. Our pupil elected **School Council** play a strong role in our school. Its members are elected by their peers and are tasked with helping to make St Paul's a better place in which to learn. They meet with the Head and Chair of Governors every other week and school council business is an agenda item at Full Governing Body meetings.

The **Year 6 House Captains** are elected by pupils across the school and are the pupil ambassadors for our school, welcoming visitors to open events, giving tours of the school and running the school office at lunchtimes.

Feedback from all pupils is gathered via our annual **Pupil Questionnaire** and interviews are also conducted through the year. We know that the formation of the School Council, House Captain Committee and the active participation of our pupils will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.



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## RULE OF LAW

We all encounter rules throughout our lives. What we teach our children and help them to understand is that **whether these rules govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons.** The importance of rules is consistently reinforced through assemblies and the curriculum. The involvement of the children in the creation of **class** rules helps them to understand the rationale and the consequence if they are broken.

Through philosophical enquiry we create opportunities for children to **debate and discuss reasons for rules and laws** so that they can recognise the importance of these for their own safety and wellbeing. Throughout the year we **welcome visits from members of the local community, the church** and teach about services that help and support us like the police and fire brigade. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories and examples emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.

## INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

We invest a great deal of time in creating a **positive culture** in our school so that the children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. In lessons, **learning tasks are often left for the child to decide upon.** We encourage them to choose the task that will challenge, giving them more freedom to determine their own learning. We offer a **range of extra-curricular clubs** which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. Through our school **code of rights and responsibilities**, the **e-Safety curriculum, PSHE lessons**, we educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these. We believe that teaching the children to value choice and to know their rights and responsibilities, personal and collective, will foster a value for liberty as the children embark on adult life.



## MUTUAL RESPECT

Mutual respect is at the **core of our school life.** **Relationships are the heart.** This is evident in all that we do, as is the unconditional positive regard we hold for one another.

## TOLERANCE OF THOSE WITH DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS

We offer a **rich and diverse curriculum** in which all **major religions are studied and respected.** At St Paul's we firmly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our **curriculum and the routines of our daily school life** we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who recognise the value of being part of a community and who can help build a better Britain for the future.

British values are woven through everything that we do at St Paul's and all that remains is for us to familiarise the children with the terminology.

**Further information can be found at:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance-on-promoting-british-values-in-schools-published>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015>



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