



St Thomas More RC Primary School, British Values Policy

Mission Statement

St Thomas More Catholic School is a God Centred family of children, staff, parents and governors based in a wider community.

We aim for spiritual and academic excellence for all pupils, whom we regard as special and unique children of God.

At St Thomas More, we promote fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths/beliefs.

We aim to develop:

- 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 of the judiciary system;
- An understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- An acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs should be accepted and tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour;
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination.

At St Thomas More we promote British values in a range of ways, including:

Democracy

- Electing a School Council
- Highlighting the development of democratic ideas in history lessons
- Allowing pupils to vote in a range of situations linked to school life eg selecting a charity they wish to support (e.g. Shoebox Appeal, Hand in hand for Syria)
- Ensuring all pupils are listened to by adults;
- Inviting the Mayor and other speakers to the school

At the beginning of each year, children affirm the school's expectations, along with the rights and responsibilities associated with these. The children and staff actively engage with each other to create a happy, learning environment where everyone is responsible for the rules.

St Thomas More has an active School Council and children are elected each year by their peers. Children who sit on the School Council understand the importance of representing others. Children are encouraged to be leaders at St Thomas More. KS2 children are play leaders and help younger children at break/lunch. We have established a Buddy System involving Reception and Year 6.

Democracy is taught during assemblies and PSHE lessons. Children are regularly given the opportunity to express their views through Pupil Voice interviews, questionnaires and RE/PSHE discussions.

The Rule of Law

- Having a clear behaviour policy that is explained to all;
- Highlighting the rules of the church and God in the RE curriculum, for example the 10 Commandments.

Behaviour is outstanding at St Thomas More and children feel safe. Children know what is expected from them and understand why rules are so important. They are aware of the consequences if rules are broken. The curriculum is reviewed regularly to ensure children are fully engaged and behaviour remains outstanding. At St Thomas More, we want our children to become independent learners.

We ensure that children are aware of the responsibilities that come with having rights. They develop independence in managing relationships and behaviour. We encourage children to resolve conflict and right any wrongs.

At St Thomas More, we encourage children to be leaders throughout the school. They understand that the rules created in class permeate through all activities and events. Children are aware that they act as school ambassadors on educational visits.

Individual liberty

- Encouraging children to be independent in their learning;
- Providing children with opportunities for reflection.

St Thomas More is a safe place for children and adults. It is a supportive environment. Children are aware that there are boundaries and how they can make choices wisely. They are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights. Regular e-safety sessions are provided. Children are given the freedom to make choices. They are given ownership of their learning. Children are regularly given next steps whether verbally or written so they know exactly how to progress in their learning.

Mutual Respect

- Having a Mission Statement that is inclusive;
- Constantly promoting respect for others as good manners;
- Reinforcing the value of everyone's opinions in class discussions;
- Having an effective anti-bullying policy;
- Emphasising in RE and PSHE lessons that every person is unique and 'created in the image of God';
- Having links with other schools and the wider Parish community;
- Supporting charitable work.

We nurture an understanding of mutual respect at St Thomas More, where kindness, resilience, honesty and respect are fostered. The children and staff understand our values and work in a manner that encourages everyone to achieve their best. Children's achievements are celebrated. Work is displayed well and celebrated by children and staff on a regular basis. Learning and effort are highly respected. The whole school is focused on developing an intrinsic sense of worth and achievement. At St Thomas More, we take part in many events with other schools both locally and take pride in representing our school. Supporting charities is a strong feature through the year and children take an active part in raising money and deciding upon the charity to be supported.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- Having a deep understanding of their own faith as well as an awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as a basis for understanding and respecting them;

- Showing how Jesus encouraged tolerance in stories such as The Good Samaritan and The Woman at the Well.

This is achieved through enhancing children's understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. Assemblies and workshops are regularly held where children hear stories about religious festivals throughout the school year. In the RE scheme of work, children learn about other faiths and beliefs and we actively encourage visitors from other faiths into school to deliver workshops (Explore Judaism, Sadia Shakil) as well as organising visits for children to local synagogues and mosques. Our core values ensure children show respect for the individual person.