British Values

Promoting British Values at

St William's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

October 2026

At St William's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, British Values are promoted through our Catholic ethos, Gospel Values and commitment to Catholic Social Teaching.

The Department for Education requires schools to actively promote the fundamental British Values of:

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

As a Catholic school, we recognise that these values are fully compatible with the teachings of the Gospel and the mission of the Catholic Church. Our faith calls us to recognise the dignity of every human person, work for the common good, respect the rights and responsibilities of all members of society, and promote justice, peace and compassion.

Through our curriculum, collective worship, relationships, behaviour expectations and wider opportunities for leadership and service, we help pupils to become responsible citizens who contribute positively to modern Britain whilst living out their faith. We encourage all members of our school community to demonstrate respect, kindness, honesty, forgiveness, courage and service to others, reflecting both our Catholic identity and our commitment to British Values.

British Values are not taught in isolation but are embedded throughout school life, enabling pupils to understand their rights and responsibilities, appreciate diversity, challenge discrimination and develop into active, informed and compassionate members of society.

Based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we promote:

- Human dignity
- The common good
- Solidarity
- Participation in society
- Peace and reconciliation
- Justice and equality
- Respect for all regardless of faith, background, culture or ability

These principles prepare pupils to flourish in contemporary Britain whilst remaining rooted in their faith and values.

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at our school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their own opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and pupil questionnaires. Elections for the School Council and House Captains are based on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. Through our School Council, pupil leadership roles, pupil voice activities and participation in charity and community projects, pupils learn that every person has a voice and can contribute positively to decision-making. This reflects our belief that all people are made in the image and likeness of God and should be treated with dignity and respect.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Our school rules are deeply embedded in our work every day. As a school, we discuss and display the school rules which are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every pupil is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our 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. Details about school rules and rewards and sanctions are available in our Behaviour Policy. Pupils learn that rules and laws help to protect individuals and communities. They understand that rights come with responsibilities and that justice, fairness and reconciliation are central to both British society and Catholic teaching.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school, we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment, an empowering education and a curriculum based upon clear Christian values. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly see in our e-safety and PSHE lessons. Pupils are encouraged to make informed choices, express their views respectfully and develop independence within a framework of Christian values and responsibility towards others.

Mutual Respect

Respect is one of our core values and key to our school rules. Our pupils are involved in reviewing classroom /school rules and these are deeply embedded in our Mission Statement and all that we do at our school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. The core value of respect at St William's Catholic Primary School and Nursery underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom. Rooted in our Mission Statement and Gospel Values, pupils are taught to respect the dignity of every person. Respect is demonstrated through positive relationships, inclusive practice and an understanding that everyone is valued by God.

Respect and Understanding of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

As a Catholic school, we actively promote respect, understanding and dialogue between people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures. Through Religious Education, collective worship, visits, visitors and the wider curriculum, pupils develop an appreciation of the rich diversity of modern Britain. We teach pupils to challenge prejudice and discrimination and to value the contribution that different communities make to society.

British Values, Gospel Values and Catholic Social Teaching

At St William's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, British Values are promoted through:

- Religious Education
- Collective Worship and prayer
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Personal Development
- PSHE and Relationships Education
- Pupil leadership opportunities
- Charitable fundraising and social action
- Community and parish links
- Safeguarding and online safety education

In this way, British Values are lived and experienced through the daily life of our school and are strengthened by our Catholic mission to love God and serve others.