



# British Values Statement 2024-25



**Our Mission Statement** "In God's love we live, learn and grow" is central to the school's philosophy of growing in faith.

Our School Vision is "**Success for All.**"

'What we are called to respect in each person is first of all his life, his physical integrity, his dignity and the rights deriving from that dignity, his reputation, his property, his ethnic and cultural identity, his ideas and his political choices. We are therefore called to think speak and write respectfully of the other, not only in his presence, but always and everywhere, avoiding unfair criticism or defamation.' (Pope Francis)

We teach the importance of British Values by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian Values. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why British values are important. Our framework for understanding British values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all, which is developed in Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic doctrine and practice permeates every aspect of our school's activity. We provide a Catholic curriculum, which is broad and balanced, recognising that every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (Gen 1:27). Our curriculum is designed to enable every pupil to discern their vocation and to be well-equipped to follow it as active citizens in service to the world.

In our school, Catholic Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" (Pope St John Paul II) and the foundation of the education we provide for pupils. We provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities and strong pastoral support. We incorporate democratic principles, value the rule of law, support individual liberty and foster a community in which different faiths and beliefs are respected.

St. Anselm's has a clear Equality Policy which aims to prevent discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status or similar. St. Anselm's also seeks to lay the foundations for our pupils' future lives, beyond the formal curriculum, preparing them for the diverse and dynamic society in which they will live and work. An understanding of British values is a critical part of this education.

The definition of British Values was set out of the government in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and added to Ofsted inspection guidance in July 2014: "To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs." Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to these values, which are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs



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Many of these values are embedded within our Catholic Ethos and Mission, but in addition St. Anselm's uses strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure pupils' understanding of the wider implications of British values. The examples that follow show some of the ways in which St. Anselm's seeks to embed British values.

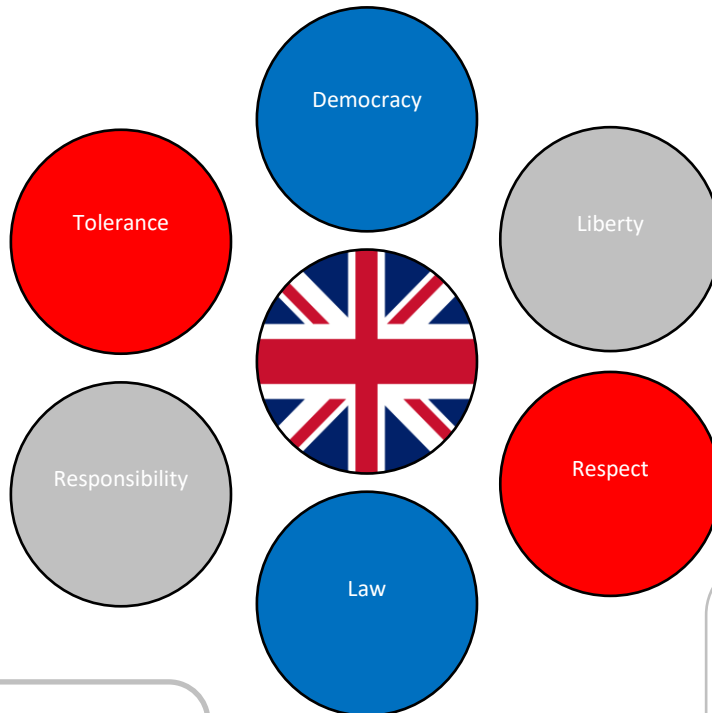
## Core British Values

I recognise that it is unacceptable to dismiss the beliefs and opinions of anyone.  
I understand that discussions about sensitive issues will be controlled and structured.

I can influence the way school runs through the school Pope Francis Action Team and by talking to staff.  
I can influence my lessons through putting my hand up and responding.

I recognise that I am as equally responsible for my learning as the teacher.  
I take responsibility for all my actions-good and bad. We all have a responsibility to promote and protect the well-being of others.

I am free to think as I see fit.  
I have the freedom to make choices that affect me but I recognise I am accountable for all my actions.



I understand that the school rules are used to mirror society laws and must be respected.  
I recognise that there will be consequences for my actions.

I recognise that everyone is entitled to their opinion as long as it does not promote extremism.  
I understand that everyone is entitled to a voice within the classroom.  
I will listen to others as I would like to be listened to.



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## Democracy

Links to Gospel Values of Service, Sacrifice, Humility, Gentleness and Equality:  
Proverbs 14:15 "The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps."

**Link to Beatitudes: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."**

Links to the UN Convention of Children's Rights:

Article 12: Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

Throughout their time at St. Anselm's there will be many occasions where children will have the opportunity to vote and for their voices to be heard. We understand that the children's opinions about their school are valid and need to be at the heart of our decision making. All staff will model this process through asking questions and inviting children's answers and opinions, whether it be in lessons, during assemblies, at lunchtime or on the playground. For example, in child-initiated learning, all children are developing their decision making skills and learning to make informed choices and take responsibility for them. Older children often take part in debating activities or engage in public speaking on various topics.

Our Pope Francis Action Team has members elected from each class and have regular meetings to represent the views of their classmates.

Our behaviour policy is clear that children are expected to contribute and co-operate, taking into account the views of others. Our commitment to a democratic approach runs through all aspects of school life.

## The Rule of Law

Links to the Gospel Values of Truth, Justice, Forgiveness, Mercy and Courage:

Romans 2:13 "For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified."

**Link to Beatitudes: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God."**

Links to the UN Convention of Children's Rights:

Article 19: Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

We consistently reinforce our high expectations of children. Children are taught the value and reasons behind our expectations (rules) that they are there to protect us, that everyone has a responsibility and that there are consequences when rules are broken. They recognise that whilst we have rules at school, other rules and laws exist in the country for the same reasons.

- At the beginning of each academic year, children create a set of mutually agreed rules for conduct and learning behaviours in their class charter.



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- By signing the Home School Agreement all parents/carers, children and teachers show commitment to uphold the school rules.
- Children are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. We help children to understand the connection between actions and consequences; rights and responsibilities.

Visits from the fire service, road safety experts, the police and visits to the various community buildings help us to reinforce this message.

## Individual Liberty

Links to the Gospel Values of Faithfulness, Integrity, Purity and Holiness:

James 1:25 "But the one who looks in to the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer for forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

**Link to Beatitudes: "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God."**

Links to the UN Convention of Children's Rights:

Article 31: All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

Article 15: Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Pupils at St. Anselm's are encouraged to know and understand their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, e.g. through our E-Safety policy, PSHE curriculum, circle times and assemblies. Pupils are encouraged to exercise their right to free speech by articulating their views to their Pope Francis Action Team Representatives. Pupils also use the pupil 'Listening Box' or the 'Worry Monster' to share concerns about issues, alerting school leaders and initiating a productive dialogue. This has built up a strong sense of trust, because pupils know that adults take their concerns seriously, that they will listen and, where necessary, take action.

We aim to ensure that pupils know their rights, but also that they are aware of the responsibilities that they entail. Teachers and other staff endeavour to set clear, consistent boundaries so that pupils can make informed choices in a safe, secure and supportive environment. St. Anselm's has clear Anti-bullying and Behaviour Management policies that are openly shared with every member of our community.

## Mutual Respect

Links to the Gospel Values of Dignity, Compassion, Tolerance, Peace and Equality:

Mark 12:31 The second is this: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

Matthew 7:12 "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Hebrews 12:14 "Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."

**Link to Beatitudes: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."**

Links to the UN Convention of Children's Rights:



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Article 14: Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

Mutual respect is at the heart of our faith: Jesus said, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' At St. Anselm's we recognise the need to value the unique contribution of each person in our school. Adults actively model respect with one another - and with the pupils - in how we speak to and treat one another. Our school is a diverse community and through the R.E. curriculum we promote an awareness of different faiths. We also encourage our pupils to recognise and understand these faiths. Our pupils naturally show tolerance for others and have a curiosity to find out and understand cultures and faiths that are different from their own. All staff model a tolerant and accepting attitude. We use assemblies to raise and discuss issues of bullying and prejudice and reinforce learning during curriculum time.

At St. Anselm's Primary School, we will actively challenge pupils, parents or staff who express opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including extremist views.

## **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

[Link to Beatitudes: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."](#)

As a Catholic worshipping community, pupils are equipped with the ability to develop positive values and understanding their own beliefs within a culturally diverse society. We aim to enhance children's understanding of different faiths and beliefs by participating in a range of celebrations throughout the year. Through our school values, all children are taught to respect everyone regardless of their faith and beliefs.

Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. We invite visit visitors from our community to share their knowledge and to enhance learning both within classes and for the whole school or we visit local places of worship.