



British Values at St Nicholas and St Laurence

The Department for Education state that there is a need *“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools 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.**”*

At St Nicholas and St Laurence, we understand how important these values are. They are integral to our core life skills and curriculum experience, and therefore they are embedded in our daily practice. These values are not unique to Britain, and the values of different countries and cultures are respected throughout St Nicholas and St Laurence.

Below are some examples of how we promote British Values:

Democracy

At St Nicholas and St Laurence, we regularly allow for children, parents and staff to contribute to and express their views with regards to the school, ensuring that their opinions are heard. Pupils are listened to by the adults and are taught and encouraged to listen carefully to each other, respecting the right of every individual. We demonstrate democracy through the election for the student council, where peers vote for two children to represent their class. They meet fortnightly to discuss issues raised by their classes. Our voting process allows everyone to be involved, actively demonstrating democracy in action. The council representatives are announced in assembly so everyone knows who they are.

Pupil voice takes place regularly throughout the year, actively involving the children; encouraging them to share suggestions and reflections on the teaching and learning of core and foundation subjects, as well as their learning environment.

Parents' and carers' views are welcomed through the most obvious means of questionnaires and feedback forms. We constantly strive to maintain an open door approachable policy with members of the SLT carrying out morning and end of day duty daily, strengthening positive relationships and encouraging discussion with our parents and carers.

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 the school day, following our behaviour policy and the explicit use of 'restorative justice.' Our school rules and Christian values are deeply embedded into our school life. At the beginning of each school year at St Nicholas and St Laurence, every class involves their children in deciding on a class charter, which everyone agrees to. This gives children ownership on the expectations that they adhere to throughout their learning journey. Children are taught that having rules and values in place, ensures all children and staff feel safe in the learning environment and know that they are there to protect us, the responsibilities involved and the consequences when laws are broken. We encourage visits from services such as the Police, Fire and Lifeguard services to help reinforce this.

Individual Liberty

At St Nicholas and St Laurence, children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school, we educate and provide clear boundaries for our children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering and enriched curriculum. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely. Examples of this can be clearly seen within our clubs; over-night residential visits; e-safety and PSHE (including SRE) lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge; choice of learning style or how they record; of participation in our numerous extra-curricular activities; or involvement in charity events; all pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect underpins all of our school values and is embedded in our class values and everything we do around school. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. Pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whether they are children, staff, parents, visitors or members of the community, regardless of any differences they may have.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At St Nicholas and St Laurence, we are proud to promote and celebrate our different faiths, background and beliefs. We strive to develop pupils understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education studies, PSHE lessons and within our collective worships. Beliefs, traditions and customs are studied within classes, and this learning is enhanced with visitors into school and visits to different places of worship, to help enrich and extend their understanding.

We endeavour to ensure our pupils leave St Nicholas and St Laurence with an increased understanding of the world today, in order to understand their place within a multi-cultural and diverse society.

Actively promoting British Values also means challenging children, staff or parents expressing opinions opposing the fundamental values. Any such incident is treated seriously in line with our expectations and policies.