



## British Values and Our Catholic Ethos

Date approved	23rd May 2019	Approved by	St Ralph Sherwin CMAT
		Signature	P Barnes
Due for review by	May 2023	Name	Peter Barnes

### Scope of this Policy

This policy statement applies to all academies within the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

### Objective of this Policy

The objective of this policy is to ensure that our obligations and duties to promote British Values are understood and discharged effectively across all our academies within the Catholic ethos of each academy.

### Ownership of this Policy

This policy is owned by the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust Board. Each academy will adopt this policy statement.

### Monitoring of this Policy

Local Governing Bodies will apply and monitor this policy within their academies and will publish this British Values statement. The Trust Board will seek evidence periodically to monitor compliance with the requirement for every academy to publish a statement.

### Relevant Legislation

Government guidance on promoting British Values in Schools (November 2014).

### Related Policies/ Documents

Safeguarding suite of policies, particularly Prevent

### Policy Details

We are a Catholic Multi Academy Trust which is *"inspired by the life, message and example of Jesus Christ"*. We promote these values by our words and deeds, and Catholic doctrine and practice therefore permeates every aspect of the Academy Trust's activities. 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). The curriculums at all our academies are designed to enable every pupil to find their vocation and to be well-equipped to follow it as active citizens in service to

the world. Catholic Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" (Pope St John Paul II) and the foundation of the entire educational process.

The government set out its definition of 'British Values' in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011), which aims to address extremism and religious radicalisation of young people. British values are considered to be democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. The promotion of 'British values' is central to Catholic education because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

"We are proud that Catholic schools promote values that are both Catholic and British, including: respect for the individual, democracy, individual liberty, respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. Our schools promote cohesion by serving more ethnically diverse and poorer communities. Catholic schools provide high standards of education which are popular with parents from all social, economic and faith backgrounds. " Paul Barber (Catholic Education Service 15 December 2014).

Within our Trust we recognise, not only the importance of helping students to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the Common Good of all. 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. The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British values within our Academy Trust and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the academy, the Trust, or the country, is consistently reinforced throughout every day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through Acts of Worship. The curriculum is designed to ensure students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

### **Individual Liberty**

Students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We encourage students to see themselves as unique individuals able to make a unique contribution to building community. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely.

## **Mutual Respect**

Respect is a core value for each of our academies and is modelled by pupils and staff alike. We promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments as well as extra-curricular activities such as sport. In line with our commitment to democracy, students are always able to voice their opinions as we foster an environment where pupils can debate ideas and are safe to disagree with each other. We encourage students to substantiate opinions and to realise the value of co-operation and consensus as well as decision making through voting. Our emphasis on ethics, fairness and justice means that we ask our students to ensure that they look out for those who might be marginalised and disadvantaged. We take a strong stance on social inclusion and anti-bullying through an explicit focus on strategies to enable respect for difference.

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

This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to develop positive values, understand their own beliefs and their place in a culturally diverse society. We give our students opportunities to experience such diversity within the Academy Trust community and within the wider community. All students experience a connection with other cultures and beliefs through our Religious Education programme. Our Religious Studies curriculum follows the teaching of the Church in providing a broad and balanced education, which includes an understanding of and

## **Supporting Documents**

Link to government guidance: [Guidance on promoting British values in schools published - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/promoting-british-values-in-schools)

## **Glossary of terms and abbreviations in this policy**

The term "Trust" refers throughout to the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust.