



St. James' Church of England Primary School

**'Building One Faith, One Family,
Our Future'**

British Values Policy

Approved by Governors – Spring 2024 – Standards
Reviewed by B.Scholfield – Spring 2026 – Standards

Foundation, Vision and Intent

St James' Lower Darwen

Church of England Primary School



"Building One Faith, One Family, Our Future."

"We offer a holistic curriculum that champions our community and is aspirational."

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

through

ENRICHMENT

THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

SKATS

FORGIVENESS

COMPASSION

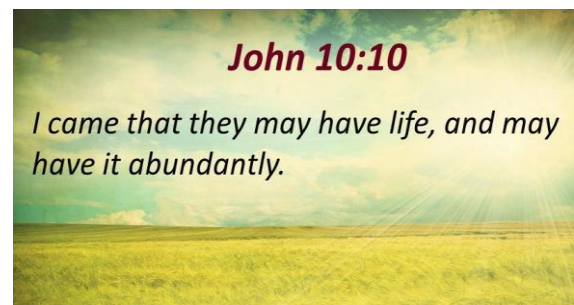
LOVE

TRUTH

JUSTICE

Jeremiah 29:11

John 10:10



We want our children to know that **God has a plan for them** that means **they live their best life possible.**

Each **policy** and procedure within school, alongside the ongoing **curriculum** delivery, our **SKATS** programme, **enrichment** and the **spiritual development** offered to our families through Worship, RE and our links with Church, work towards making this happen

POLICY FOR PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

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.”**

In accordance with The Department for Education, we aim to actively promote British values in schools to ensure our children leave school prepared for life in modern Britain and multi-cultural society.

We promote this through our Christian Values, curriculum, extra-curricular activities, teaching and learning and through the example set by the staff team.

The values set out in the above statement are reinforced regularly and examples of this can be seen in the following ways:

Democracy

Respect for democracy, democratic participation and active involvement of all pupils is evident across St James'. We give pupils regular opportunity to have their voices and opinions heard, through day to day teaching and conversations and through more formal events, such as Pupil Voice Group Elections. Our school focus on oracy and use of 'talk rules' within class support children in effectively voicing their views and opinions in a respectful manner.

Within school, our Pupil Voice Groups, made up from a range of elected students from across the school include: Eco Group, Worship Warriors, Courageous Advocates, Student Observers of Learning (SOLs), Sports and Extra-Curricular Group, Mental Health and Well-being Group, Cultural Capital Committee and Oracy Group. The students, along with their lead teacher take on various projects and initiatives in line with their mission statements.

The students at St James' are involved in many decisions which affect their learning and school experience. This includes interviewing candidates for job positions within school, reviewing the school learning environment and suggesting changes or improvements, voting for activities or choices within class and suggesting clubs they would like to participate in.

Our school behaviour policy uses a colour coded system for sanctions – yellow, amber and red – with consequences linked to each colour. We also have a large range of rewards including Star of the Week, Planet Points, Class of the Week and Class Dojos. Children have opportunity to voice whether they feel colour coded sanctions have been fair and also nominate peers to staff for various rewards.

Within school, pupils feel listened to by adults and are encouraged to listen to and respect others too.

Decisions made within the SLT are often discussed with the staff team and based upon what best reflects the interest of the children, staff and community. The leadership team have an open door policy where members of staff and children are able to discuss any issues or concerns at any given time. The leadership team are very

present around school which strengthens the opportunity for pupils and staff to approach and discuss ideas and issues with them.

Rule of Law

The importance of laws are consistently reinforced on a regular basis within our school. These include class rules, school rules and laws within our country. These are discussed and explored in a range of ways, including when dealing with behaviour – both positive and negative, during worship, discussions linked to our weekly Picture News worship, through the teaching of PSHE and other subjects such as History (law in periods of history).

We welcome visitors from the wider community and public institutions such as the Fire Service, the Police and the Mayor's Office which help reinforce the importance of the Rule of Law for our students. As a school, we make sure that our school rules are fair and our expectations are clear. We aim to ensure our pupils understand that our school rules are there to protect us and those around us.

Staff are also expected to adhere to a code of conduct.

Individual Liberty

At St James' we strive to ensure our children feel safe and supported so that they can make their own choices. Children make a wide range of choices on a daily basis, for example choosing their dinner, choosing what to play with at playtime, which challenge to complete in EYFS continuous provision and choosing their own characters and setting to innovate their own stories. Behaviour is often dealt with a consequence of the child's choice, rather than them as a person. We provide a safe environment and an empowering and diverse curriculum. We support children in making the correct decisions through teaching of online safety in computing and various other topics in PSHE. We also provide many enrichment opportunities, focus on oracy skills and explore our SKATs on a regular basis. All of this enables children to develop various skills and opinions and furthers their individual holistic development.

We study a wide range of inspirational people who have displayed passion for a particular area or have achieved greatness due to their hard work in their area of interest. We ensure we include a wide range of ethnicities, religions, ages and abilities in the people we focus on, to ensure that all our children feel represented and can also learn about and celebrate individuals from all walks of life. This applies to all areas of school life. For example, history, English, PSHE, worship, RE, general visitors, science etc.

Children take responsibilities such as leading worship sessions, being play buddies or readers, showing visitors round, being eco monitors, controlling tech in worship etc. They are also encouraged to partake in charity events and services such as Remembrance services. Children, particularly the Courageous Advocates Group, initiate and organise their own fundraising events or activities. The school partake in fundraising and raising awareness for charities across the world, including Christian charities, as well as charities which impact our school community and are important to our school family.

We help children to develop their self-confidence, self-knowledge and self-esteem. We celebrate their wide range of achievements, both in and out of school and provide opportunities for them flourish on a daily basis.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is embedded in our school life and ethos. The staff treat the children with respect and have high expectations in return. Children are encouraged to listen to each other and value the ideas, opinions and skills of others. This is explored in all areas of school life and throughout the curriculum.

Our whole school oracy focus builds both social and working relationships between the students and facilitates the teaching of respectful conversation. This is explicitly outlined in each class's talk rules, which the children and teachers create at the start of each year. Our use of Kagan structured groups in class provides opportunity for the children to coach each other, work collaboratively and to share ideas.

We expect our students to show mutual respect towards everyone and everything. This is echoed in our school Christian values of love, truth, forgiveness, justice and compassion. Visitors to the school regularly comment on the values and respectful behaviour of our students and staff.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

At St. James, we do more than tolerate different religions and beliefs. We accept and celebrate the differences of others. The term 'celebrate' is used when referring to this British Value as a school.

In RE, a wide range of religions are studied and children are encouraged to identify similarities and differences to Christianity. We draw upon the experiences and knowledge of those in our school community to further our experiences and learning. For example, sharing the celebration of Eid through discussions, photographs, well wishes and food tasting. Children study and visit, where possible, places of worship belonging to various faiths.

We explore the different ways in which Christians practice their beliefs, both in our community and across the world. This is done through worship sessions and through regular conversations in school. We delight in sharing the cultural traditions of our families, for example tasting the 'Red Beet Soup' brought in by one of our Polish families at Christmas time. Songs used in worship reflect different languages and countries, to enable the children to see how people around the world celebrate God.

Through worship and RE, children are encouraged to ask big questions about Christianity and develop their own relationship with their faith and God. We facilitate children on their own religious journeys and they are able to freely and respectfully express their views about Christianity. This includes children with strong faith, those who are agnostic and those who may have little or no belief in God at all.

In history, children explore the beliefs of people in various time frames. For example, how people in the Iron Age used moving water as part of their burial process to send individuals to the afterlife and to send gifts to Gods.

In PSHE, children explore different types of family and lifestyle and are able to make links to their own experiences.

Staff partake in PREVENT training and are aware of what to do if they encounter prejudice based bullying or concerning comments. St James have a zero tolerance approach to bullying and children are supported in making the right decisions. The

nurturing environment at St James' ensures that children who are angry or unhappy are quickly identified and support is put in place, before they begin to channel their negative feelings into unkind comments or actions of a bullying nature.

Through various subjects and through our Picture News resource, children are made aware of their rights and the rights of those around them.

Building our children's experiences of different faiths and beliefs as well as celebrating the differences of others helps prepare them for their future as citizens in a multi-cultural and diverse world.