



ORCHARD
—Community Trust—
Courage - Unity - Equity



British Values Policy

Last Approved: March 2026

Review Date: March 2027

British Values Policy

Our ethos is underpinned by the overarching value of RESPECT. The school values are Responsibility, Equality, Spirituality, Perseverance, Enthusiasm, Commitment and Trust. Children are encouraged to adopt and live out our Core Values. These complement the fundamental British Values and encourage tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.

What are British values?

The five British values are:

- **democracy**
- **the rule of law**
- **individual liberty**
- **mutual respect**
- **tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

Aims

St. Mark's CE Primary School is committed to celebrating the diversity of the UK. We aim to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain and to ensure that our school ethos, curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning reflect and promote British values.

We recognise that these values are not exclusive to being British and that they have come to be accepted throughout the democratic world as the method of creating an orderly society, in which individual members can feel safe, valued and can contribute to for the good of themselves and others.

We recognise that British values do not give total liberty to individuals or tolerance of all views. Their declared aim is to combat extremism, and so they do not condone attitudes that are discriminatory and not inclusive or loving.

We understand the role that our school has in helping **prevent radicalisation** and supporting our pupils in developing a world view, recognising Britain's place within it.

Opportunities we provide for pupils to understand British values

We take opportunities for pupils to:

- acknowledge, celebrate and commemorate national events and anniversaries related to key events in Britain's past e.g., Remembrance Sunday, Jubilee celebrations.

- support a number of charities and arrange fundraising events e.g., non-uniform day for ‘Children in Need’, Harvest breakfast for ‘Send a Cow’, Collecting donations for the foodbank on a regular basis.
- make connections between British values and other curriculum subjects. Our curriculum is built around themes which enable our children to broaden their cultural experiences and learn about the world around them.
- make connections between British values and worship themes. One of the school values is used for whole school and class worship each half term.
- explore British values through spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) opportunities.
- explore British values through the personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme of study.

Below we include more details about how each British value is embedded in our school.

British value & possible Biblical links	Links with our School values	Some examples in practice
<p>Democracy</p> <p><i>Democracy as we know it was not a feature of the autocratic Roman rule of Jesus’ time on Earth. However, the rule of democracy is dependent on a belief that each person is important, valued and worthy if respect.</i></p>	<p>Our overarching school value is RESPECT.</p> <p>By RESPECT we mean that every member of the school community understands each other’s differences and values everyone.</p> <p>Equality <i>‘Peter then said: Now I am certain that God treats all people alike.’</i> Acts 10:34</p>	<p>Democracy is taken seriously. Children are actively encouraged to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly. Our active school council, Eco-council and team captains are examples of this. Every September we hold a secret ballot to elect representatives from each class.</p> <p>The school council representatives meet every half term and take the ideas from the meeting back to their classes for discussion.</p> <p>Every child also contributes their ideas to the composition of their own class rules every year, setting ground rules for classroom conduct and establishing the standards of behaviour children can expect from each other over the year ahead.</p> <p>All children are encouraged to debate topics of interest,</p>

		<p>express their views, take into account the views of others and make a meaningful contribution to the running of the school on matters that directly involve pupils.</p> <p>Children also have the opportunity to have their voices heard through pupil questionnaires, pupil surveys and informal discussions with leaders.</p> <p>The principle of democracy is explored in the curriculum as well as during Collective Worship and special days.</p>
<p>The rule of law <i>The Bible says</i></p> <p><i>‘Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle towards everyone.’ [Titus 3:1]</i></p> <p><i>‘What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God’ [Micah 6:8]</i></p>	<p>Our overarching school value is RESPECT.</p> <p>By RESPECT we mean that every member of the school community understands each other’s differences and values everyone.</p> <p>Responsibility</p> <p><i>‘We each must carry our own load.’ Galatians 6:5</i></p> <p>Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions.</p>	<p>Pupils in our school / academy understand the need for rules to make ours a happy and secure environment. Our behaviour policy is shared and understood and this provides a basis on which we discuss other laws and rules and how they apply. The policy emphasises that even if rules are broken, we can correct our behaviour accordingly so that in future, rules are less likely to be broken.</p> <p>Ground rules are established in all areas of the curriculum and students are encouraged to see the reasons for them. The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day.</p> <p>Children are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that</p>

		<p>they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.</p> <p>During Religious Education lessons, children learn about Rules and Codes of Living in the religions studied and the importance of The Golden Rule for both religious and non-religious people. This allows them the opportunity to discuss the importance of this value.</p>
<p>Individual liberty <i>Christians believe that every individual is a unique and valued creation, made in the 'image of God', [Genesis 1:27]. Moreover, God loves every person he has made. For Christians each individual has spiritual potential.</i></p>	<p>Our overarching school value is RESPECT.</p> <p>By RESPECT we mean that every member of the school community understands each other's differences and values everyone.</p> <p>Spirituality <i>'God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, '</i> <i>Galatians 5:22</i></p>	<p>The rights of every pupil are at the centre of our ethos. However, pupils must also recognise the boundaries there must be too. Independent thinking and learning are encouraged and there are frequent opportunities for pupils to grow in maturity and independence as they move throughout the school.</p> <p>We place an emphasis on respecting difference and valuing creativity. Within school, children are actively encouraged to make decisions and choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.</p> <p>As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young children to take risks and make choices safely.</p> <p>Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for</p>

		<p>example through our E-Safety. Children have the option to participate in one of our extra-curricular clubs.</p> <p>Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged. A strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed. The school also operates a robust system of logging incidents.</p> <p>Children have key roles and responsibilities in school e.g. team point monitors, computer monitors, collective worship council members, school & eco councilors and prefects.</p> <p>Children learn about individuals who have made a contribution to society and individual liberty e.g., Martin Luther King, Ghandi, in Religious Education and in collective worship.</p>
<p>Mutual respect <i>Christian love is to be lived out to all those around us, 'anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister'. [1 John 4:21</i></p> <p><i>The Bible adds: 'Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it'. [Hebrews 13:1-2]</i></p>	<p>Our overarching school value is RESPECT.</p> <p>By RESPECT we mean that every member of the school community understands each other's differences and values everyone.</p>	<p>As a Church of England School which serves a diverse community, mutual respect is at the heart of our values.</p> <p>Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others.</p> <p>All members of the school community are expected treat each other with respect.</p> <p>Collective Worship is regularly planned to promote respect and tolerance either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety</p>

		<p>of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce this. The children explore Islam, Humanism, the Hindu faith and Judaism alongside their learning about Christianity.</p>
<p>The tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs <i>Christian love is to be lived out to all those around us, 'anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister'. [1 John 4:21] [Matthew 5:46]</i></p> <p><i>The Bible adds: 'Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it'. [Hebrews 13:1-2]</i></p>	<p>Our overarching school value is RESPECT.</p> <p>By RESPECT we mean that every member of the school community understands each other's differences and values everyone.</p> <p>Equality</p> <p><i>'Peter then said: Now I am certain that God treats all people alike.'</i> <i>Acts 10:34</i></p>	<p>We welcome difference and diversity and aim to create understanding of how this adds to the richness of our community.</p> <p>We aim to do more than 'tolerate' those with different faiths and beliefs. We recognise the extent to which our own traditions and history have developed side by side and the rich cultural heritage that different world religions bring.</p> <p>We believe that exploring and understanding other people's faiths and beliefs are rewarding experiences and help us understand our own faiths and beliefs better.</p> <p>Each year the school participates in Interfaith Week, which provides opportunities for children to learn about belief and faith in a wider variety of contexts.</p> <p>The school marks significant dates in the calendar with events, assemblies and displays to raise awareness e.g., Black History month. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within Collective Worship and by contributing to lessons.</p> <p>St. Mark's has a room set aside for prayer and reflection, the 'Rainbow Room', for all to use.</p>



		All classrooms have reflection areas which all children (of any faith, or no faith) can access.
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We will review this guidance on a yearly basis.

Signed:

Headteacher

Signed:

Co-Chair Local Governing Board

Date: March 2026

Appendix

(1) British values since 2014

Since **November 2014** all schools and academies in England, whether state or independent, have a duty to actively promote British values as part of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural education (SMSC). All schools must now have a clear strategy for embedding these values across the life of the school and show the effectiveness of this work.

See the full recommendation through the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf

(2) Ofsted

Ofsted inspects and comments on this area. The clear aim of promoting these values is stated as being to “tighten up the standards on pupil welfare to improve safeguarding, and the standards on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils to strengthen the barriers to extremism”. It is believed that promotion of these values will ensure pupils become valued and rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background, and so leave school better prepared for life in modern

(3) SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) evaluation schedule 2018

All church schools under Section 48 will have a SIAMS inspection. This will consider:

- How well the school’s Christian vision promotes social and cultural development through the practice of forgiveness and reconciliation that encourages good mental health and enables all to flourish and live well together.
- How well the school’s Christian vision creates an environment that embraces difference where all pupils, whatever their background or ability, can flourish because all are treated with dignity and respect.