



At St-Matthew's we agree with the Department for Education's five part definition of British Values:

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

We believe it is incredibly important that these British Values permeate through every school in the country. At St-Matthew's C of E Primary school children encounter these values throughout our everyday school life, especially through our promotion of the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects . Our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report (2015) recognised us as a 'Good' Church of England School. This means that our school is distinctively and recognisably a Christian institution. We believe that our Christian identity plays an important role in upholding British Values within our school community. Our values and school vision correlates closely with the Department of Education's British Values. Below is a snap shot of how we promote these values in our school community:

Democracy:

Pupil voice plays a big part of life at St-Matthew's C of E Primary School . All pupils are given the chance to be a school council representative and they play a strong role in school improvement. Pupils have input in their learning and what they would like to learn which promotes pupil voice. For example, the pupils are involved in choosing texts, topics and themes . Pupil questionnaires, conferences and democratic voting are also conducted throughout the year. We feel that these opportunities to shape their school will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.

The Rule of Law:

We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and should be followed. The understanding of our school rules is consistently reinforced in corridors and classrooms, through assemblies and in our curriculum. The involvement of our pupils in the creation of the class rules helps them to understand the reasons behind rules and the consequences if these rules are broken. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, church, hospitals, the fire brigade and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the Rule of Law for our pupils.

Individual Liberty:

We focus heavily on creating a positive culture in our school, so children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. Our positive behaviour policy encourages pupils to make individual choices. Through our E-Safety, countryside skills and PSHE sessions, we educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely. We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. At St-matthew's we believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives

Mutual Respect:

Our school vision states:

'With love and faith, we aspire and achieve'

Respect and love towards others is one of our core values and therefore it plays an important role in our daily life. Mutual respect is promoted daily through the school rules and using our collective worship time. Our 'Playground champions' programme, 'reading buddy' system and links with a local care home all help to support the children's respect of others. Our link with a School in the Western Province of Kenya also gives the pupils a wider sense of mutual respect. Mutual respect is at the core of our school life.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs:

Whilst we are a Church of England School, we offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected. Parents and leaders of different faiths are welcomed to the school to share their beliefs. At St-Matthew's we strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.