



**St. John's C.E Primary School
Friern Barnet**

British Values Statement

St. John's C.E. Primary School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. St. John's C.E. Primary School is dedicated to preparing pupils for adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its pupils.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five key British Values are:

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

The Christian faith has for centuries been a driving force in our education and legal system and Christian values have made their mark on our history as a nation.

As a church school, the core values which we seek to endorse are the '**Fruits of the Spirit**' as found in Galatians 5: 22-23

✓ Love, Joy, Peace, Forbearance, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control.

We are fortunate in that we live in a country where the majority of people care about the wellbeing of others, where injustice and cruelty to others appals and where people can be stirred to be compassionate and generous in their support for a good cause.

It would be challenging to try and pin down how those characteristics have evolved and become part of our being and how over many years governments have tried to enshrine the ideas in law. An important piece of legislation is the Equality Act.

The Equality Act 2010 has three aims:

- to eliminate unlawful discrimination
- to advance equality of opportunity
- to foster good relations between people

The values that matter and influence public decision making might be summed up by the following list:

1. No one is above the Law; the same rules apply to everyone whether rich or poor.
2. The Monarch is the Head of the Church and together with the House of Commons and the House of Lords they are the supreme authority.
3. Everyone has a right to be treated equally, belonging to a different race or religion should not make any difference. Everyone, whatever their race or religion, should deal with each other in a tolerant and open way.
4. People are allowed to speak freely and to hold their own opinions, even if they are eccentric, as long as no harm results to others.
5. People can buy and sell property, land or belongings, they can sign contracts and have them honoured, without fear of confiscation by the state or other people.
6. Encouragement is given to people to volunteer and to set up organisations that explore the interests and needs of a community. They are able to work out for themselves the best way to operate within the law.
7. Children are helped to grow up happily in a loving, kind and disciplined environment by being part of a stable, loving family and wider community.
8. Learning about the achievements and mistakes of the past and valuing the rights and obligations that have gradually emerged out of the history of Britain.

As a church school, the five key British Values are supported by and promoted by the Christian faith through an understanding of the following principles:

DEMOCRACY

The Church has been at the centre of Government in the United Kingdom for centuries and instrumental in the development of democracy, from the sealing of Magna Carta by King John in 1215.

In so far as 'Democracy' is a system in which 'government' is vested in the people for the protection of all, especially the weak and marginalised in society, the Christian Gospel declares that all people are equal in the Kingdom of God and those who rule must rule as those who serve. (Matthew 20.26; Luke 22.26) The principle that all stand equal in the sight of God and equally in need of his mercy permeates the common life of St John's School community.

THE RULE OF LAW

The Decalogue and the commandment to love are law in the Christian faith and they have been the inspiration for the Rule of Law in the United Kingdom. Christ's commandment to love neighbour and St Paul's call to his followers to be 'reconcilers' in the world (2 Corinthians 5.18), feed the vision that inspires and sustains the guidelines and behaviours by which the school community lives.

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

Jesus Christ and St Paul use respectively the simile of a vine and a human body to explain the significant contribution that each and all can make for the benefit of the whole. The New Testament supports the view that all who belong to the Body of Christ, within their abilities and strengths, are equally needed and valued. No part is more important than another though they may have different functions to perform (John 15.5; 1 Corinthians 12.15-26).

The ability to make individual choices and still value and respect others in the wider community is pivotal to the life of any Christian or Christian body like St John's School.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Jesus said, "Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7.12) St Paul in many of his New Testament letters, teaching on the Christian way of life, echoes this call for respect and mutual love, "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour." (Philippians 2.3)

Mutual respect is encouraged at every level of the school.

TOLERANCE OF THOSE OF DIFFERENT BELIEFS AND FAITHS

Though the Christian Gospel fosters adherence to Jesus Christ and his rule of life, many of his teachings reached out to those who were not of his faith or ethnic background. The Parable of the Good Samaritan gives honour to the stranger (Luke 10.25-37) and in his Sermon on the Mount Jesus declares that those who aspire to follow him should love even their enemies and pray for their persecutors (Matthew 5.44.) No one is deemed out of reach of God's love. The measure of the Kingdom is not defined by religious or ethnic boundaries but, rather, by compassion and love (Matthew 25.31-end)

St John's School is encouraged to embrace all who are part of its common life, and outside it, with the same degree of respect and value because all humanity was created by God and every individual bears God's likeness.

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