

## **British Values at St Alban's**

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### *Democracy*

St Alban's Primary School places great importance on fostering democratic values and ensuring that the voices of children, parents, and staff are heard. Democracy is deeply embedded in our school's operations and is reflected in various aspects of our community.

To begin with, pupils at St Alban's Primary School are actively encouraged to express their opinions and are assured that their voices will be heard by adults. They are taught the valuable skills of attentive listening and demonstrating empathy towards their peers. Respecting the rights of every individual to have their opinions heard is emphasized, nurturing a culture of inclusivity and mutual respect. Through these practices, pupils develop a sense of ownership not only over their own learning and progress but also over the school as a whole. This heightened sense of personal and social responsibility is evident in their daily interactions.

One way in which we ensure that children have a say in the school's rules and regulations is by involving them in the creation of "Class Charters." Each class contributes to and creates their own charter, which is then shared with the entire school during collective worship and prominently displayed in each classroom. This exercise allows every child to contribute to the discussion around their right to learn, promoting a sense of accountability and active participation.

At St Alban's, we recognize the importance of representative democracy. To facilitate this, we have appointed House Ambassadors who serve as the voice of the pupils. These ambassadors are elected by their peers in a proper election process, conducted by local RMBC counsellors. Each House has a specific role and focuses on various aspects of school life. For example:

- House Carmel promotes reading and a love for books, ensuring equal opportunities for all children to be school librarians.
- House Jordan encourages healthy habits, such as maintaining nutritious lunchboxes and improving playtime experiences.
- House Sinai collaborates with our Headteacher to select and read school prayers that reflect our school's current needs.

- House Jericho spearheads initiatives to create a greener and more sustainable school environment.

Parents' opinions are highly valued at St Alban's Primary School, and we actively seek their input through various channels. These include questionnaires, surveys conducted during parents' evenings, and opportunities to provide feedback on whole-school matters, such as changes to the school uniform. We also involve parents in decision-making processes related to curriculum development through subject leader interviews, where we seek their views and suggestions.

To further promote student voice, we have implemented pupil suggestion boxes in each House, allowing students to share their ideas, concerns, and suggestions for improvement. Additionally, each class has a designated "note to my teacher" box, providing a platform for students to communicate their thoughts to their teachers.

Our pupils are known for their proactive engagement in matters that interest them. They have initiated petitions to advocate for their interests, such as the right to wear leavers hoodies during assemblies, and have written to local counsellors to raise awareness of and address local issues.

At St Alban's, we also prioritize educating our students about democracy. We conduct regular assemblies on the topic and organize educational visits, such as a trip for House leaders to meet the mayor and a visit to the Houses of Parliament in London. These experiences deepen their understanding of democratic processes and instill a sense of civic responsibility.

In summary, St Alban's Primary School is committed to providing a democratic environment where the voices of children, parents, and staff are valued and heard. Through various initiatives such as Class Charters, House Ambassadors, parental involvement, and educational experiences, we aim to nurture responsible citizens who actively participate in decision-making processes and contribute positively to society.

## *The Rule of Law*

The significance of rules and laws, both within our school is consistently emphasised and reinforced at various points throughout the academic year. Assemblies and discussions on behaviour choices serve as regular reminders of the importance of rules and their role in maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment. At the beginning of each school year, every class engages in comprehensive discussions regarding the school rules and class routines, which are crucial for ensuring a conducive learning environment. These rules are prominently displayed in each classroom, serving as constant visual reminders for all students. They play a fundamental role in our system of behaviour sanctions and rewards.

At our school, we prioritize teaching students about the value and purpose of laws, emphasizing that they are in place to govern and protect us. We focus on imparting an understanding of the responsibilities that come with living in a society governed by laws, as well as the consequences that result from their violation. To reinforce these values, we have implemented various approaches:

1. **Guest Visits and Collaborations:** Authorities such as the police and fire services visit the school, engaging with students to deepen their understanding of the importance of following rules and regulations. Additionally, our Year 6 students participate in the 'Crucial Crew' program in Rotherham, where they gain practical knowledge about safety rules and potential hazards. Cycling proficiency lessons and road safety sessions with our lollipop lady further enhance students' comprehension of the rules for ensuring their own safety.
2. **Religious Education:** During Religious Education lessons, students explore the rules and principles followed in various faiths. This provides them with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of rules in different belief systems and appreciate the diverse approaches to guiding behaviour.
3. **Integration Across Subjects:** In other subject areas, students are encouraged to demonstrate respect and appreciation for different rules. This integration of rule-based discussions across the curriculum fosters a holistic understanding of rules and their significance in various contexts.

4. Peer Support and Engagement: Playground buddies play a vital role in promoting adherence to school rules. These student leaders offer support and encouragement to their peers, reinforcing the importance of following rules during playtime. Throughout the school, both school rules and sport-specific rules are visibly displayed, serving as constant reminders for students. Furthermore, dining room helpers uphold lunchtime rules, ensuring a positive dining experience, and celebrating weekly achievements in this area.

By consistently reinforcing the value and rationale behind rules and laws, we strive to instill in our students a sense of responsibility, respect for regulations, and an understanding of the potential consequences that may arise from their violation. Through these efforts, we aim to nurture well-rounded individuals who are not only academically proficient but also equipped with the necessary skills to navigate and contribute positively to society.

### *Individual Liberty*

In addition to upholding rules and laws, we firmly believe in promoting freedom of choice and the respectful expression of views and beliefs among our students. We strive to create a safe and supportive environment that provides clear boundaries within which our pupils can make choices confidently. For instance, we encourage them to make choices related to their personal learning and improvement, empowering them to take ownership of their educational journey. Furthermore, we foster a culture of diverse interests and passions by offering a wide range of extracurricular activities. Students have the opportunity to explore their individual talents and hobbies through music lessons and after-school clubs such as gardening, art, gymnastics, multi-sports, drama, and singing. Our dedicated PSHE lead specifically targets certain students to ensure that all pupils have equal opportunities to nurture their interests and discover their unique passions.

To ensure that our students exercise their rights and personal freedoms safely, we incorporate lessons on personal, social, health, and economic (PSHE) education into our curriculum. We utilize the PSHE Association resource throughout the school, equipping teachers with the necessary tools to educate children about making safe choices, maintaining their well-being, and being prepared for life's opportunities. These lessons also provide a platform for

students to develop essential skills and knowledge that enable them to navigate their personal and social lives responsibly.

Our collective worship sessions serve as a valuable means to explore and reinforce the school's values. We utilize these sessions to teach children emotional management techniques, which empower them to become effective and successful learners. By equipping students with skills to manage emotions, they learn to foster and sustain friendships, resolve conflicts equitably, solve problems independently, and manage strong feelings like frustration, anger, or anxiety. They also develop the ability to promote calm and optimistic mindsets that facilitate the achievement of goals, bounce back from setbacks, work cooperatively, compete fairly with respect for all competitors, and advocate for their own rights and the rights of others.

Furthermore, we emphasize the importance of understanding and respecting differences and commonalities among individuals. Our students learn to appreciate that others may hold beliefs and values different from their own, promoting an environment of inclusivity and respect for diverse perspectives.

By integrating these principles into our daily practices, we strive to foster an environment that values individual freedom, respectful expression, and the development of essential life skills.

### *Mutual Respect*

At our school, we place a strong emphasis on respecting and valuing our world, as well as everything that exists within it, whether it be material possessions or living beings. We believe that each individual possesses unique gifts and talents, and we encourage everyone to embrace and utilize their own special abilities.

Respect and kindness are fundamental values we instill in our students and staff. We maintain high expectations for achievement and behaviour, promoting a positive and polite atmosphere within the school community. We emphasize the importance of listening to and respecting one another, while teaching children effective conflict resolution strategies that are handled calmly and fairly. Every member of our school family is valued equally, and we celebrate positive lunchtime behaviour and the care of our school environment through initiatives such as litter picking crews and gardening clubs.

In our weekly Celebration Assemblies, we take the time to acknowledge and applaud each other's achievements, both within and outside of school. These assemblies also cover topics related to special educational needs (SEN), promoting respect and understanding among all students.

Our dedicated teachers plan exciting, interesting, challenging, and innovative lessons that foster a culture of respect and high expectations.

At St. Alban's, we utilize a Mastery approach to learning, ensuring that adaptive teaching strategies are in place to support every child's success.

To promote mutual respect across different age groups, we provide older students with key roles and responsibilities within the school. Through activities such as reading buddies, playground buddies, sports leaders, lunchtime helpers, and participating in the 'Daily Mile' together, older students work alongside younger children, fostering positive relationships and nurturing a sense of mentorship. Additionally, our House leaders play a vital role in promoting the school's culture and ethos of servant leadership, where the needs of the school community are prioritized above personal interests, fostering a culture of honour and respect for all.

By integrating these values and practices into our daily routines, we strive to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every individual is encouraged to excel, respect others, and contribute positively to the school community.

### *Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs*

St. Alban's Primary takes great pride in promoting and celebrating the rich tapestry of backgrounds and beliefs within our school community. Tolerance, politeness, and mutual respect lie at the very core of our aims, ethos, and Religious Education (R.E.) curriculum.

Driven by our central aim of 'Educating for life in all its fullness,' we strive to equip our pupils with the skills necessary to live and work harmoniously alongside individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures. We emphasize the expectation of showing respect to every person and every aspect of our world, embracing and appreciating the differences that exist among us. Children

understand that their behaviour choices have an impact on their own rights as well as the rights of others, fostering a sense of responsibility and empathy. We foster a school-wide culture that encourages all members of the community to treat one another with respect, fostering a positive and inclusive environment.

Through engaging lessons in Religious Education, Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) education, and other subjects, we cultivate awareness and appreciation for different cultures.

As part of their R.E. lessons, children have the opportunity to visit mosques and the cathedral, broadening their understanding and respect for various faiths. We embrace and celebrate diverse cultures through our choice of authors, artists, and musicians that we study.

Each class possesses a diverse selection of books that represent protected characteristics, serving as both mirrors for the children to see themselves and windows to explore the world beyond their own experiences. These books are regularly shared in class and are also part of our home learning library, fostering a sense of inclusion and understanding.

We actively celebrate cultural differences through assemblies, themed weeks, noticeboards, and displays. Children are encouraged to share their own experiences and celebrations of their faith, promoting a sense of pride and understanding. Daily worship reflects and teaches the children about tolerance for different faiths and beliefs.

We have collaborated with the children to create the 'St. Alban's Prayer,' which encapsulates shared beliefs and values. Within our school, activities are designed to support and respect individuals of different or no faith, while teaching children to appreciate and tolerate diverse perspectives. We actively seek input from these groups, considering their opinions in all activities and fostering an inclusive environment.

By incorporating these principles into our daily practices, we aim to create a nurturing and inclusive learning environment where every individual is valued, respected, and celebrated for their unique background and beliefs.