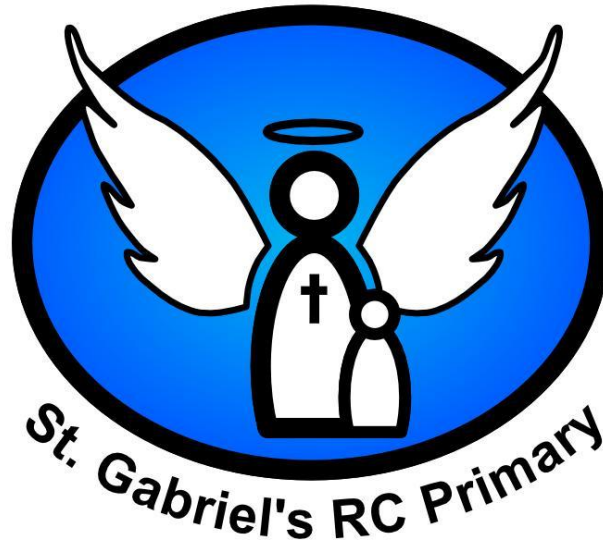




British Values and Culture Policy

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Version 4

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In God's Love: We Welcome

We Learn

We Grow

TOGETHER

Showing re**S**pect for everyone and everything

We are s**t**ronger, together,

Keeping the **G**ospel values in our hearts,

We are proud to be **a** part of a hard-working team.

Everyone a mem**b**er of God's family,

Progressing th**r**ough life, progressing through faith,

Walking **i**n Jesus' footsteps,

Learning for lif**e**, following our dreams.

We are al**l** unique, but all equal

Sharing God'**s** love through friendship and mutual respect.

At St. Gabriel's we recognise the important role that each child has as a valued citizen within our multi-cultural British society and also as a Global citizen, both now and in their future lives.

As a Catholic school, we believe it is our duty to promote respect for the whole person. The Greek roots of the term "Catholic" mean "according to (kata-) the whole (holos)," or more colloquially, "universal." We must, therefore, educate our children to be outward looking and aware of the world in which they live if they are to be true citizens of the future.

Democracy and Rule of Law

At St. Gabriel's, we believe that pupil voice is essential in educating our children in the process of democracy. School Mission Group leaders are elected through a process of application and selection each year. This includes the School Council, the Laudato Si Eco team, the Caritas Gift (Growing in Faith Together) Chaplaincy Team and Well being Ambassadors.

We also explore democracy and rule of law during our participation in the annual Parliament Week.

Our school has three straightforward rules: ready, respectful, safe. From their first days in Reception, children are taught how these rules apply not only to their time in school, but also to their wider lives. As they grow older, our pupils will encounter many different rules and laws. We wish them to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood and the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to.

We re-enforce our rules and the understanding of law through assemblies, in classes, around the school and through our curriculum. Displaying our rules clearly and valuing them as the foundation of our Behaviour Blueprint helps to keep them fresh and relevant for the whole school community.

Throughout the year, we welcome visits from members of the wider community including the police, CAFOD representatives, Rochdale Council, 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, whilst also providing opportunities to promote tolerance and respect for others within the local community.

Opportunities for children to take more responsibility around the school are encouraged and all children have the opportunity to take on leadership roles across the school each year. Year 6 also take on extra responsibilities by caring for Reception Buddies and supporting them as they learn the rules and routines of our school.

Respect and Tolerance

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. It is central to the teaching of Jesus and is one of our three school rules. Through our Sunshine Days and Anti- Bullying work, the children are taught to value differences in themselves and others and to show respect to all. The work of our Pastoral Manager provides the opportunity for children to access extra Circle Time and Discussion Groups which both promote positive social interaction.

Our Mission Statement, Religious Education scheme and our emphasis on Catholic social teaching through Caritas in Action promotes respect and tolerance within our school culture. Catholic social teaching is underpinned by many principles such as: the dignity of the human person, working for the common good, stewardship of the planet, social and global issues,

economy and leadership, all of which are consummate with understanding of key British values.

Our Come and See programme ensures that all children learn about the main religions as it teaches respect and understanding for the cultures, beliefs, opinions and traditions of others. This is further enhanced through assemblies and the study of cultural events including Chinese New Year, Diwali and Black History.

The school follows the Live 'Life to the Full' RSE programme. Within this, unit three has an emphasis on 'Living in Community', which further re-enforces tolerance, respect and individual liberty.

Within our curriculum design, we plan to study the work of a range of scientists from many different cultural and ethical backgrounds. We also ensure that our children have access to weekly news to help build awareness of the issues faced by others around the globe.

Through our ethos, routines, rules and curriculum we strive to develop the respect, tolerance and understanding that our pupils need to become knowledgeable and thoughtful citizens, able to take a positive role within our culturally diverse society.

Individual Liberty

Our school is fully committed to developing a positive culture, so that children learn in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged and valued. Pupils are given the freedom to make a variety of meaningful choices such as choosing the level of challenge or genre they wish to undertake with their Accelerated Reader books.

In addition to this, we offer a range of extra-curricular clubs from which pupils have the freedom to choose. Through our E-Safety teaching and learning, we educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely, whilst our half-termly Sunshine Days help children to celebrate individuality and well-being.

Local Community

There are strongly established links between our parish and school community. These help the pupils to recognise that they are part of a wider 'family' with responsibilities that extend beyond the school.

- As part of our multi-faith teaching, linked to our RE scheme we are exploring links between other faith communities through our involvement with other schools and visits to a variety of places of worship.
- Each year at Harvest time we encourage our children to donate non-perishable goods which are donated to the local food bank.
- In December we participate in a Christingle Service (a tradition originating in Germany) with St. John's School.
- As part of our Epiphany celebrations we ask for donations of items useful to mothers and babies. These are then given to Gabriel Court in Rochdale which provides care and accommodation for young mothers and their babies.
- We also support Castleton Amateur Dramatics Society, who make use of our hall to stage a pantomime during spring half term.

- The school choir is involved in a number of events including singing at the local Castleton Christmas lights switch on and at Cobden Lodge, our local Old People's home during December.
- Our local Mayor, Mr. Billy Sheerin, is a frequent visitor to the school and ensures that we play an active part in Rochdale in Bloom each year. We have also worked with the local Co-op to promote Fair Trade.
- During Lent each year our children contribute to the St. Joseph's Penny collection which is used by Caritas to fund local causes.

Global Community

- We work closely with CAFOD, whose representatives have presented assemblies on global issues and have worked with our GIFT Chaplaincy team, enabling them to take a greater lead in exploring life in our Global 'village'.
- We support CAFOD's World Gifts scheme and often participate in the Rotary Shoe Box Scheme.
- In addition we respond to unforeseen world events and emergencies.
- At Christmas staff choose make a donation to charity, rather sending Christmas cards.

Exploring and Understanding Other Faiths

We timetable three specific multi-faith weeks each year, exploring Hinduism, Judaism and Islam.

We ensure progression in understanding, as the work covered is linked to our RE scheme.

Annual Events

During our annual themed days and weeks we ensure cultural diversity is acknowledged and celebrated and that our children are aware of issues within the wider world.

- Anti-bullying week – at an age appropriate level children are taught about the different types of bullying that may occur including verbal, physical, emotional, sexual, cyber and racial bullying and how to address these.
- World Book Day - authors from around the world are celebrated.
- E-Safety days - rights and personal freedoms are studied along with recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely
- Spanish Day – children are given the opportunity to become familiar with a different culture.

In all that we do, we believe that our children can and do make a positive difference in their school environment, in their local community, in the wider community and as responsible Global Citizens.