



ST BERNADETTE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
VALUES STATEMENT
(To be read in conjunction with our Mission statement)



Our Mission Statement,

"learning to grow in knowledge, faith and love through friendship with Jesus and Mary"

underpins all that we do at St Bernadette School



The DfE have recently reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year.

The use of the term values has been absorbed into the vocabulary of modern society. In this context, values are often subjective, regarded as a question of personal preferences - what is right for 'me' or the community to which I belong. However, the promotion of British values talks of promoting a set of core human values or principles that are objective, trans-cultural, and universal, for example: responsibility, compassion, respect for others and honesty. Such core values and principles lay at the heart of the laws and ethics that govern societies and nations.

Blessed Pope John Paul II, in his writings and homilies, consistently used the term 'values' in ways that challenge modern societies and cultures to re-discover the foundation of their core values and principles: *"An urgent task awaits you: to re-establish the bonds which have been strained and sometimes broken between the cultural values of our time and their lasting, Christian foundation."*

Whilst other 'values' may be found within the four Gospels and New Testament writings, it is the Beatitudes which: *"...depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray his charity"*.

Gospel values cannot therefore be values chosen subjectively from the vast corpus of the Old and New Testaments but are objective values revealed to us through Christ's proclamation.

Such objective values are to be found rooted in the Beatitudes, the proclamation of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes also *"...reveal the goal of human*

existence, the ultimate end of human acts" and as such are the objective 'values' given by Christ himself.

Gospel values *"...are a guarantee of peace and of collaboration among all citizens in the shared commitment to serving the common good"*. Rooted in the teaching of Christ, these Gospel values constitute the targets and outcomes of the educational enterprise at St Bernadette Catholic Primary School.

Whilst not definitive, the Gospel values based on the Beatitudes may be summarized as follows:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven"

Values: Faithfulness & Integrity

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"

Values: Dignity & Compassion

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"

Values: Humility & Gentleness

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied"

Values: Truth & Justice

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy"

Values: Forgiveness & Mercy

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God"

Values: Purity & Holiness

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"

Values: Tolerance & Peace

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way"

Values: Service & Sacrifice

For this to be possible, all values (both British and Gospel values) need to be explicitly named, their meaning unpacked and pupils helped to understand how they relate to their lives both at school, at home and in society. This enterprise is not in addition to the quest for high academic standards and vocational excellence but integral to it: *"Catholic schools, while providing a quality education, hold up Christian values to children, inviting them to build their own lives on them. Teaching these values, for those who know how to accept and live them consistently, yields highly positive results - as experience confirms - at the personal, family and professional levels."*

At St Bernadette Catholic Primary School values, both gospel values and those set out below, are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

- **Democracy**

Democracy has a high profile within the school; Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, School Parliament and Pupil questionnaires. The elections of the school council members are based solely on pupil votes. Our school behaviour policy involves rewards which the pupils vote on as a class group. Every opportunity is taken to educate pupils through our curriculum provision rather than just on an ad hoc basis. At relevant and pertinent times throughout the academic year, we provide themed weeks and workshops to study and explore other points of view, for example, Anti Bullying week, Black History Month, Christmas Truce 1914 etc

- **The Rule of Law:**

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when the laws are broken. Visits from the authorities such as the Police and Fire Service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

- **Individual Liberty**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example

through our E Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

- **Mutual Respect**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as "Respect", and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, Home -School Agreement, as well as our behaviour policy.

- **Tolerance of those of Different Faith and Beliefs**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Our RE Curriculum prescribes that pupils study two different religions in addition to their own within any one academic year. Many other opportunities are provided to inform and educate pupils of other faiths through our Dimensions Creative curriculum, for example through our study of festivals etc .Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice- based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Our Pupil Questionnaires and Council meetings in particular show that this has been successful.