

# British Values at St Theresa's CPS, Leeds

December 2014/January 2015

## Catholic Ethos

The school was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with Canon Law and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and in accordance with the Trust Deeds of the Diocese of Leeds and in particular:

- (a) Religious education is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church.
- (b) Worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

And at all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

## School Mission Statement\*

Our mission is to deliver an outstanding and distinctive Catholic education with  
Christ at the heart of our community.

Together, we share and celebrate our faith whilst respecting and learning from other traditions and cultures.

We aim to prepare all for the global community of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, reflecting the ever-changing world in which we live, work and have our being.

We acknowledge the unique value of each person.

Through mutual support, and in partnership with the home and parish communities, we nurture everyone to become the best they can be.

We strive for excellence in all we do by;

*Walking in Theresa's Little Way.*

## The School Aims to:

- a) Provide a sound and balanced curriculum in keeping with the National Curriculum requirements, so that the children may acquire the skills, concepts and knowledge appropriate to the primary stages of education.
- b) Help pupils develop lively enquiring minds and to provide as wide a range of educational experience as possible.
- c) Enable all pupils to achieve their full potential, whatever their needs or talents, and to develop not only as individuals but as Christians and as Catholics.
- d) Provide a well-structured, warm and caring atmosphere so that the children feel secure and older pupils are able to make an easy transition to secondary education.

St Theresa's School remains committed to achieving the 5 Outcomes of Every Child Matters:

- Be safe
- Be healthy
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

# Strategic Aims for Continuous School Improvement

*'Walking in Theresa's Little Way'*

**St Theresa's Catholic Primary School promotes excellence in learning, achievement and attainment by helping its pupils to:**

- Know they are loved unconditionally by God
- Have confidence in themselves and have high self-esteem
- Become independent and well-motivated life-long learners who can work in a variety of ways
- Leave St Theresa's as fully rounded, responsible human beings able to understand and take part fully in a global and culturally diverse society
- Achieve their full potential in all areas of the curriculum
- Embrace future technology and all it has to offer them as life-long learners

**We believe that to achieve these aspirations for our pupils we must create a school where:**

- All in our community, home/school/parish, are given opportunities to develop their relationship with God and so come to full human wholeness on their journey of faith
- All in our community are treated with mutual respect, openness and honesty in an atmosphere of security and love
- All have access to excellent Learning and Teaching opportunities and experiences, within an inclusive, lively and stimulating environment
- Key skills are taught in Literacy and Numeracy so that all children can achieve full potential across the whole curriculum
- All have access to a broad and balanced, stimulating, interesting and relevant curriculum including extracurricular activities and visits
- Pupils have access to learning and teaching that makes full use of all that future technology has to offer including the very latest hardware, software and online learning resources.
- Pupils have access to the best learning resources the school can provide
- The search for excellence in all things is our common goal.

## **BRITISH VALUES**

British Values are central to our school values, ethos and mission:

**Democracy:** We actively promote and model democracy by:

- Providing our children with a broad knowledge of and promoting respect for public institutions and services e.g. Visits to the Civic Hall for city events and celebrations, visits from Police and PCSOs, Fire Service, Local Councillors, role-play areas.
- Teaching children how they can influence decision making through the democratic process e.g. School council, Pupil Questionnaires.
- Encouraging pupils to become involved in decision making processes and ensuring they are listened to in school e.g. school council, school food ambassadors, open door policy for head, consultation with pupils about class rules, excellent relationships between staff and pupils.
- Encouraging pupils to act well for others in their community... do the right thing, because it is the right thing to do! (not because someone is watching or might reward you!)
- Modelling how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged e.g. by teaching about inspirational figures such as Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King.
- See SMSC Policy on how we use the school flagpole to promote democracy and sense of British identity but also recognising world events.

**Rule of Law:** We actively promote and model the rule of law by:

- Ensuring school rules are clear and fair e.g. through our consistent behaviour policy.
- Helping children to distinguish right from wrong e.g. through our use of circle times and by using the example of Christ when dealing with any behaviour that is not acceptable.
- Promoting respect for the law and the basis on which it is made e.g. through visitors such as PCSOs, Police and use of the Gospel to illustrate the need to respect the law of the land.
- Helping children to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals e.g. through our RE curriculum, through focus weeks, visitors.
- Having a behaviour policy that is linked to restorative justice e.g. that is based in the Christian values of forgiveness and mutual respect.

**Individual Liberty:** We actively promote and model individual liberty by:

- Supporting pupils to develop self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence e.g. through our weekly ethos statements and circle times, through our Catholic ethos, our way of treating people, by investing heavily in meeting the needs of all of the children, by providing equality of opportunity, by knowing and understanding the needs of all of the children.

- Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour as well as knowing their rights e.g. through linking rights with responsibilities, by having a fair and consistent behaviour management policy. [i.e. Golden Rules and Doing the right thing... ]
- Challenging stereotypes e.g. visitors into school, disability awareness, anti-bullying and anti-racism learning. [SLES work]
- Implementing a strong anti-bullying culture.

**Respect and Tolerance:** We actively promote and model respect and tolerance by:

- Living true to the values espoused in the Stephen Lawrence Education Standard that was achieved to Level 1 then Level 2 in recent years.
- Promoting respect for individual differences e.g. through assemblies and masses, the RE curriculum, multicultural and international weeks and events, through our Catholic ethos and through visits to other places of worship.
- Helping children to acquire an understanding of and respect for their own and other cultures and ways of life e.g. through Geography, History, use of Dance and Art from a range of cultures, International weeks and events inviting families to share their cultures, Religious Education teaching about world faiths.
- Organising visits to places of worship e.g. our parish Church, visit to the Jewish heritage centre and synagogue, Grand Mosque, Harehills Sikh temple.
- Openly discuss and celebrate the differences between people such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender and different family situations.