


# Our Lady's RC Primary School



## British Values Policy

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**Signed:**  (Headteacher)

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**Signed:**  (Chair/Governor)

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# "Learning and loving together; we grow with Jesus"

## Our Core Values

During Summer 2020 workshops, we revisited both our Mission Statement and Core Values. This involved everyone in discussion, reflection and prayer about the values, Mission and Aims of our Catholic school. There was a calling to all to re-commit to our purpose and to work together to understand our roles and responsibilities as part of Our Lady's



During the workshops, the feedback from parents, and the views expressed by the children during sessions played a prominent role in the decisions we made.

Our Mission Statement is:

**"Learning and loving together; we grow with Jesus"**

The Core Values that provide the foundation for that Mission are:

Faithful  
Nurturing  
Respectful

Positive  
Forgiving  
Honest

Safe  
Fair

## NURTURE

The School's six nurturing principles sum up our practice and theory. They underpin the context, organisation and curriculum.

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally
2. The classroom offers a safe base
3. the importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
4. Language as a vital means of communication
5. All behaviour is communication
6. The importance of transition in children's lives



Our Mission is represented by this design. As with the statement itself, the logo was developed by all stakeholders, with the children in particular providing the symbolic ideas of **growth – the tree, love – the hearts** and **Christ – the Cross**

## Rationale

Our Lady's and the DfE believe strongly in 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 fundamental values have been reinforced in 2014. Values education supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

## Aim

Here at Our Lady's we take very seriously our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain by raising standards and promoting a school ethos which is underpinned by core values linked to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the 5Ws (from 'A Framework for Review, Evaluation & Celebration of our Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Salford'). In order that we might have life in all its fullness, we ensure that our core values are lived out through our Mission Statement and Aims. Our values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful environment which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children and young people.

## The 5 Ws

Welcome	We come together in welcome as Jesus welcomes us to the family of God.
Word	We talk together as a 'word of God' community.
Witness	We look at our school mission statement and work together as a witness community, creating a happy atmosphere, lasting friendships and lifelong memories grounded in the teachings of the Gospels and personal relationships with Christ.
Welfare	We walk together as a welfare community and reach out to others who need us, as Jesus intended, striving to make our world a better place.
Worship	We pray together as a worship community.

## Welcome

In '**caring for our community as neighbours**' we strive to make our school a place of warm welcome for pupils, staff, parishioners and visitors. We are an inclusive school and, as such, we aim to promote mutual respect, self-esteem and a sense of community, with the Kingdom Values at the forefront of all our work.

Our school family has a strong sense of belonging. Whether it is in their House teams, classes, school or the wider communities of the Parish, Aspull, Wigan, Bolton, UK and beyond. Our children are proud of where they are from and have acceptance and compassion for the diversity of the communities they encounter. We aim to develop and promote the spirituality of our pupils, and this in turn influences the formation of the adults through the shared experience of all. Our parents and families are drawn to be in partnership with our school and our parish (communion).

Pupils have many opportunities to learn about people from different cultures and faiths through our curriculum and links within the community. We also encourage our young people to develop their sense of charity and care for others, locally and globally.

As a result, Our Lady's is a happy and safe environment, in which children and young people can learn and grow, and contribute much to British Society. Furthermore, there is tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions as **children acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and others' cultures and beliefs.**

## Word

Promoting '**democracy**' takes many forms, within the formal and informal curriculum.

Our Religious Education is at the foundation of all that we do in our school. We are inspired by the Word of God and we endeavour to live in the service of each other; we bear witness to the Word of God through our actions in our daily lives using the Gospel values to guide our relationships and behaviour. We celebrate the Word of God through regular worship and liturgy.

Pupil Voice plays an integral role in the decision-making processes of our school. In every year group, children work together to develop their own class rules. They elect classmates to participate in the School Council, which meets every

at least monthly. Our GIFT Team makes a significant contribution to the Catholic life of the school, meeting on a regular basis to discuss how the prayer life of our school can be developed further. We also have a very strong and well-established Eco Committee, elected by all the children, which promotes the respect for God's creation and all its people. These bodies meet with, and report to, our governing body.

All pupils are involved in charity work; many of the fund-raising activities are organised by the children themselves in response to things they have seen on the news or in the local community. Our Caritas Team work tirelessly within the community. Addressing our social mission and core values, we believe in dignity, solidarity and stewardship on behalf of the world's most vulnerable people.

At Our Lady's, we have a strong sense of justice and fairness.

All young people, where appropriate and consistent with their level of understanding, are taught about the democratic processes that operate within the UK, through the curriculum.

As a result, children develop an understanding of how citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process and of how they can contribute positively to the lives of others.

## Witness

At Our Lady's, we all bear witness to our Mission Statement and to the values of the Gospel including: *Faithful, Nurturing, Positive, Respectful, Honest, Fair, Safe and Forgiving*. Through our curriculum, including our *Caritas in Action* sessions, we nurture, support and challenge our children to live out and to give witness to the Gospel Values in their everyday experience of school life as we strive to build a community which is outward looking and serves the common good. Our children are taught to be good stewards of Creation. **They understand that any form of discrimination is not to be tolerated** and know what to do if they have a concern.

Here at Our Lady's, pupils are taught about the importance of rules which protect us and keep us safe. Our children understand the difference between right and wrong and that there are consequences in all walks of life if rules are ignored. Our Positive Behaviour policy, which is consistently applied and which is underpinned by reconciliation, encourages our children to take responsibility for themselves and their own behaviour, so that they are well prepared to become responsible citizens both now and in the future. Activities such as Eco Week, Online-Safety Week and our good relationships with our community representatives (e.g. Local Councillors, PCSOs, Fire Safety teams) develop pupils' knowledge and **understanding of the laws of the land**, and the roles of agencies such as courts and police.

## Welfare

At Our Lady's, we have a commitment that every member of our school family should 'have life to the full' and seek to promote '**individual liberty**' and respect the dignity of each individual as a child of God. We cultivate an attitude of respect for each other among our whole community. We promote responsibility and consideration for others within and beyond our community. We aim to support parents in the demands of their vocation to bring up their children so that they can experience life to the full.

Children are actively encouraged to make choices appropriate to their ability and level of understanding, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We support pupils in the development of their self-confidence and self-belief, through our nurture programme. We reinforce the belief that we all have rights and personal freedoms, and we demonstrate how to develop and exercise these safely, including in relation to e-safety, through the taught and implicit curriculum.

As a result, our pupils develop a sense of their own personal freedoms, and recognise the impact they may have on others, including staff, family and peers.

## Worship

The wide range of opportunities for prayer and worship within our school promote a strong sense of community as we '**share our faith in Jesus as disciples**'. Through worship, our children develop a meaningful relationship with God, as they learn to be reverent and respectful as they talk and listen to the Father. Through worship, all are led to reflect, meditate and pray in a way that nurtures the spirituality of the whole community. In worship, the Word of God is celebrated and given reverence. Collective worship is planned, which stimulates reflection on spiritual, moral, social and

cultural issues. The purpose and value of collective worship is reinforced by celebrations through the liturgical year which also **recognise the faiths and beliefs of people from other groups within the school.**

## **Conclusion**

We believe that the values we hold as an authentic Catholic community, articulated through our Mission Statement and developed through our provision, meet and even exceed DfE requirements. They are not an 'add-on' but are a living, breathing part of our school community. It is 'what we do and who we are.'