

Promoting British Values at St Malachy's Primary School

The DFE has emphasised that within our teaching of SMSC development:

'Schools should promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect of those with different faiths and beliefs.' At St Malachy's RC Primary School we are committed to promoting these fundamental British values in the following ways:

Democracy

At St Malachy's we help pupils to develop an, '**understanding of how citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process.**'

Pupil, parent and staff voice play a central part in developing school improvement priorities.

Children have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school. Children are regularly asked to vote about which charities they wish to support and for the winners of House Competitions.

We have an afterschool debating club for children in KS2 and they debate against other schools about a variety of topics.

The Rule of Law

At St Malachy's we help pupils to develop an, '**appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.**' Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. They are taught the values and reasons behind these expectations; that they are there to protect us, the responsibilities this involves and the consequences when rules are disregarded. Visits from the Police and Fire Service and also our annual e-safety week reinforce this message. This is supported by a home school agreement which clearly sets out expectations for staff, pupils and parents.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make their own choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make independent decisions. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through their choice of learning log activity, of how they record their work, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs, activities and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

At St Malachy's we help pupils to develop an, '**understanding that the freedom to choose and hold different faiths and beliefs is protected in law.**' Gospel Values permeate through all areas of school life and we care for and look after each other as a family. The strong school ethos encourages everyone to consider, respect and support each other as well as celebrating each child's unique gifts.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

The school's curriculum aims to develop understanding of the world. The RE, CARITAS in Action and PSHE schemes of work provide opportunities for pupils to develop tolerance and empathy towards those from different faiths, beliefs and cultures. As part of our World Faith Weeks children study Islam and Judaism and have the opportunity to visit a mosque and the Jewish Museum.