

ST. GREGORY'S



## St. Gregory's Primary School

### British Values, Gospel Values

*This is a Catholic School which seeks to live out the values of Jesus Christ. We promote these values by our words and deeds, and Catholic doctrine and practice therefore permeates every aspect of school's activity. We provide a Catholic curriculum, which is broad and balanced, recognising that every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (Gen 1:27). Our curriculum is designed to enable every pupil to discern their vocation and to be well equipped to follow it as active citizens in service to the world. Catholic Religious Education is the "core of the curriculum" (Pope St. John Paul II) and the foundation of the entire educational process. We also provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities and strong pastoral support. We incorporate democratic principles, value the rule of law, support individual liberty and foster a community in which different faiths and beliefs are respected.*

Parents and Carers across our school community will be aware of the DFE and wider Government pronouncements regarding the teaching of "British Values" in schools. A series of emergency inspections of schools in Birmingham earlier this year seems to have triggered an ongoing furore with first of all Mr. Gove, former Secretary of State for Education and very recently the Prime Minister reiterating what the Department first mentioned in 2013...

"Keeping our children safe and ensuring schools prepare them for life in modern Britain could not be more important. This change is an important step towards ensuring we have a strong legal basis for intervening in those schools where this is an issue."

"The vast majority of schools already promote British values. This is about making sure we have the tools we need to intervene if children are being let down."

Schools are required to actively promote and not undermine "British Values"

The government has set out its definition of British Values as:

- Democracy;
- the rule of law;

- individual liberty;
- mutual respect;
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs;

Now these are all very laudable and highly desirable beliefs shaped over centuries and are cornerstones of our standing and traditions as British citizens. As a school we are certainly proud to uphold these beliefs and principles, indeed we can say with some assurance that we almost always do a far better job of adhering to and actually living out these beliefs here in our school and across our community, than this current or indeed any other UK government that has held the reins of power. Here all of our children are cared for, nurtured, respected, loved and valued regardless of wealth, class, gender or religion and our aspirations for them to develop as kind, generous, tolerant, well rounded and well educated future citizens who will be able to fully contribute to a fairer and better Britain both now and especially in the future, are as high as ever.

As a Catholic School we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils character and moral perspective, through the Gospel teachings that actively permeate every aspect of our day to day life in school.

We are more than confident that our continued focus on the true Gospel message, reinforced by good example as highlighted by our Pastoral Care Captains and Vice Captains and fully supported by staff and governors, will give our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today, and embed in them the building blocks of a future successful and productive life.

Through our RE and Pastoral Care Programmes, via SEAL and our links to charitable organisations, both close to home and world wide and by constantly promoting "The Common Good" in tandem with our philosophy of care, courtesy and concern, we are able to make real links between the values of our pupils and the lives of others throughout the school and parish community, the region, our own and other countries across the world. We are all members of the family of God.

In addition via our highly praised and innovative Creative Curriculum we teach about democracy, civic responsibility, rules and laws, the monarchy, equality, values and virtues, environmental awareness and action to care for and protect our local and wider world environment via energy conservation for example, and that sacrosanct understanding and respect for other faiths and for all people.

We have very high aspirations for our children, together, as a school community, in partnership with parents, carers and all who have the well being of the child at heart.

K J Smithson.

Head Teacher.