

# Our Lady of Compassion Catholic Primary School



*'To Live As Jesus Taught Us'*

## British Values Policy

*Our Lady of Compassion School*

*is part of*

*Our Lady and All Saints MAC*

*in the*

*Archdiocese of Birmingham*

*As a Roman Catholic Primary School our aim is to develop, within each child, an understanding of his or her Catholic faith. It is hoped that with this knowledge, children will grow into responsible Catholic adults who will be able to demonstrate their faith and concern for others and continue the worship of God.*

*The school provides a full curriculum and through the presentation of the curriculum it is hoped children will develop the necessary skills for adulthood and an understanding that the skills should be for the benefit of everyone, which is an important part of Catholic life.*

**Updated: November 2025**

**Approved by Governors: December 2025**

**To Be Reviewed: December 2026**

## Values Statement

The Department for Education (2014) states that there is a 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 originally set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. These values fall into the following broad areas:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

As a Catholic school we have always had a set of values which forms our school’s mission; they underpin and are integral to every aspect of the life of the school. These values are based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and the promotion of Gospel values which are rooted in the Beatitudes, the proclamation of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount: ‘Blessed are...’. Whilst not definitive, the core values based on the Beatitudes are:

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”*

Value: **Dignity and Compassion**

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

Value: **Faithfulness and Integrity**

*“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”*

Value: **Humility and Gentleness**

*“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”*

Value: **Forgiveness and Mercy**

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”*

Value: **Purity and Holiness**

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”*

Value: **Tolerance and 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.”*

Value: **Service and Sacrifice**

At Our Lady of Compassion School, we actively promote these values by:

- Working with parents and our Parish to give the children in our care knowledge of their faith and to guide them in the practice of their faith,
- Encouraging the growth of a community based upon Gospel values, where each member has the opportunity to explore their faith,
- Providing an environment where each child is valued as an individual and has the opportunity to develop to their full potential,
- Developing a community where every member's needs, talents and qualities are appreciated,
- Encouraging the development of a professional, motivated and mutually supportive staff who hold high expectations of our pupils,
- Setting and maintaining high standards of discipline, courtesy and general moral values which allow the whole school community to function effectively; our aim is that each child can, in due course, take on a responsible role in society,
- Providing a non-sexist, non-racist atmosphere which engenders tolerance and respect for other races, religions and life-styles,
- Fostering links between home, school and parishes for the benefit of our children,
- Rewarding children who demonstrate these values with our "To Live as Jesus Taught Us" certificate,
- Helping children to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of others in the locality and further afield through their fundraising activities eg Father Hudson's Caritas, CAFOD.

As a Catholic School we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils' character and moral perspective, through the teachings of the Church. Our continued focus on the Gospel values 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. Our Gospel values work in harmony with the values that are inherently British - democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

### **Promoting British Values at Our Lady of Compassion School**

#### **Democracy**

At Our Lady of Compassion School we:

- Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services,
- Teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process,
- Include in the curriculum information on the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain,
- Model how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged.

Pupils are encouraged to become involved in decision-making processes and we ensure that they are listened to in school. 'Mock elections' are held so that pupils learn how to debate points of view, eg when electing representatives to the School Council for each class. Pupils have the opportunity to express and present their views through the School Council (each class elects two pupils to represent them in the council).

Pupils are given the opportunity annually to elect four pupils to be House Captains after candidates have delivered a speech to the pupils in their house. These positions of responsibility are based purely on pupil votes.

At the start of the new school year each class produces class rules and all pupils have the opportunity to contribute to these.

### **The Rule of Law**

At Our Lady of Compassion School we:

- Ensure school rules and expectations are clear and fair and that pupils understand the reasons for having rules,
- Ensure that the school care and behaviour policy is applied fairly and consistently,
- Help pupils to distinguish right from wrong, instilling in them the importance of honesty,
- Help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals,
- Help pupils to understand the impact of their own actions upon other people,
- Teach pupils aspects of both civil and criminal law,
- Develop approaches focused on reconciliation and justice to resolve conflicts.

Pupils are taught the value of and reasons for rules and laws; they protect us and give structure to our lives, and the responsibility that we all have to follow them. The importance of laws, whether they govern the class, the school or the country, is consistently reinforced. They are also taught that breaking rules will result in a consequence. Visits from authorities such as the Police and the Fire Service help to reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty**

At Our Lady of Compassion School we:

- Support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence,
- Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights,
- Implement a strong anti-bullying culture - as enshrined in our policies for Anti-Bullying and Care and Behaviour.

Pupils are actively encouraged to make decisions within a safe and supportive environment. They are empowered to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to do so through the wider curriculum, which is enhanced by visits from supporting agencies such as ChildLine.

### **Respect and Tolerance**

At Our Lady of Compassion School we:

- Promote respect for individual differences in all areas of learning and interaction,
- Help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life,
- Challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour,
- Learn about religions different from that of our Catholic faith,
- Discuss differences between people, such as differences of family situations.

Pupils learn that their behaviours have an effect on others and that they are responsible for ensuring all members of the school community are treated appropriately. They understand how we show respect through our actions.

Our Lady of Compassion School is an inclusive school, where we actively celebrate our pupils' differences and reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Pupils take part in visits to different places of worship.

The following is an overview of some of the activities which are undertaken at Our Lady of Compassion:

#### **Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception)**

- ❖ Children commemorate Remembrance Day, understanding the symbol of the poppy.
- ❖ Children use opportunities to discuss British values, as significant occasions or events arise, eg a royal wedding, a royal baby.
- ❖ Children study Rosa Parks as part of Black History week.
- ❖ Children study different historical figures.
- ❖ Children learn about and celebrate different festivals from other cultures.
- ❖ Children are taught the importance of treating each other kindly and saying sorry.
- ❖ Children learn about important historical events in Britain.
- ❖ Children look at maps of Great Britain and create their own British flags.
- ❖ Children elect their own school council members.
- ❖ Children democratically select house captains.

#### **Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)**

- ❖ Children commemorate Remembrance Day, understanding the significance of the poppy and the contribution of the soldiers who have died safeguarding our freedom.
- ❖ Children use opportunities to discuss British values, as significant occasions or events arise, eg a royal wedding.
- ❖ Children democratically select class representatives for their school council.
- ❖ Children debate and make decisions about their school through their school council.
- ❖ Children democratically select house captains.
- ❖ Children learn about mutual respect as they decide what they want to explore within their topic.
- ❖ Children learn about responsibility as they learn about looking after and caring for animals.
- ❖ Children research and learn about other countries.
- ❖ Children study a famous person who has made a difference to their community or the wider world as part of Black History week.
- ❖ Children study different historical figures such as Brunel and John Dunn, researching their impact on society.
- ❖ Children have different jobs to do in the class, learning how to be responsible.
- ❖ Children raise money for different charities throughout the year.

#### **Lower KS2 ( Years 3 & 4)**

- ❖ Children commemorate Remembrance Day, understanding the lessons to be learned from history.
- ❖ Children discuss what it means to be British; opportunities we have in Britain.
- ❖ Children use opportunities to discuss British values, as significant occasions or events arise, eg a royal wedding, a general election...
- ❖ Children debate and make decisions about their school through their school council.
- ❖ Children democratically select class representatives for their school council.
- ❖ Children democratically select house captains.
- ❖ Children democratically vote for Lenten fundraising charities.
- ❖ Children learn about world faiths.
- ❖ Children take part in voting for a local citizen who has made an impact.
- ❖ Children study somebody who has made an impact on the lives of other people, eg Nelson Mandela as part of Black History week.
- ❖ Children learn responsibility through jobs such as being eco-monitors.

### Upper KS2 ( Years 5 & 6)

- ❖ Children commemorate Remembrance Day, understanding the importance of reconciliation and the lessons to be learned from history (linked to work on Anne Frank).
- ❖ Children use opportunities to discuss British values, as significant occasions or events arise, eg a royal wedding, a general election...
- ❖ Children debate and make decisions about their school through their school council.
- ❖ Children democratically select class representatives for their school council.
- ❖ Children democratically select house captains.
- ❖ Children have the opportunity to be prefects, giving them the chance for responsibility.
- ❖ Children study somebody who has made an impact on the lives of other people, eg Nelson Mandela as part of Black History week.
- ❖ Children look at examples of war propaganda and discuss how it influences people.
- ❖ Children look at the speeches of Winston Churchill.
- ❖ Children look at the role of the United Nations to prevent War and keep peace.
- ❖ Children research, discuss and debate topical issues and events.
- ❖ Children study democracy in Britain at a national level, to include an interview with their MP (if available).
- ❖ Children discuss political parties and their different approaches and relate it to selecting a class councilor.
- ❖ Children learn about anonymous voting.
- ❖ Children learn about the criminal justice system.
- ❖ Children campaign on a local issue, writing to the local council on an issue which they feel is important in their community.