



The Government has reinforced 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.”***

These values are very much part of what we teach and how we are at The Marist.

Democracy:

Democracy is seen throughout the school. Our children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Pupil Voice, Eco Warriors, Playground Pals and House captains. These positions are elected with debates and hustings in upper Key Stage 2. The children also learn about our country and its laws and how they are made throughout our curriculum. At the start of this year, our Year 6 accurately predicted the outcome of the Scottish Independence debate with their own Scottish Independence Referendum with a close victory for the yes campaigners!

From the earliest point in Early Years, the children have votes in order to make decisions for the class such as which book to read or which resources should be used for Golden Time learning. This is developed through the school with voting for our annual Talent show acts as well as the more formal pupil voices' roles. In Year 5 history the children will learn about the origins of democracy in Greece and later this year all the children will be following the general election with the older children having their own mock elections and debates. Discussion, debate and voting is used throughout the curriculum. We teach the importance of listening to and respecting all voices – including those that are in the minority.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school worship. The children are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Our golden rules and Good as Gold scheme were created by our Pupil Voice and all classes debate and agree the rules, knowing the importance of making the right choice to follow them and the consequences that follow when they do not. In the upper year groups, national and international news stories are discussed and explored and the importance of the rule of law reinforced.

Individual Liberty:

Within school, our children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. It is a key element of being a Marist Learner that we welcome challenges and take risks in meeting them and that we can learn, think and act as individuals. Again this sense of independence and choice begins in Early Years with child initiated learning and is developed throughout the school as part of the Growth and Development of our children as Marist Learners.

We encourage the children to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety lessons.

Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous co-curricular clubs and opportunities, the children are given the freedom to make choices. The children also know that these liberties carry responsibility and in our work on World War I – which will continue



through to 2018 we highlighted the fact that these values that we take for granted come at a price and must be protected.

Mutual Respect:

Our school ethos and behaviour policy revolve around the Gospel Values which demand each of us to show love and respect to others. We live this throughout our school day and it is taught specifically through circle time and RE. In working in different pupil groups with changing learning partners and groups the children learn to be tolerant. This is particularly important in preparing the children for the Year group residential visits (currently in Year 4 and Year 6). The same goes in sport especially when we are taking part in competitive sport both in-school and in external competitions and leagues. In our daily interactions with each other and with those we meet we teach and expect respect regardless of any differences that there may be between us. We teach respect for our country and our traditions, for example, in the way we commemorate Remembrance Day each year and celebrate national events such as the Golden Jubilee, and we teach respect for our planet as a Green Flag school and making the most of the WWF Centre on our doorstep in Woking.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

We are a Catholic School and make no apology for that. Our faith is central to all that we do but it is a living faith, a faith that lives in our world. Our school community is diverse and we cherish that. We help our children understand that we live in a richly diverse society and do what we can to bring that diversity into the school. Worship and discussions around and about prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE and we take an active part in anti-bullying week in November each year.

Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school – one of our Sikh families came and spoke to the whole school in the Autumn term to explain more of their faith, culture and traditions and we encourage these opportunities to learn from and about each other. Our Islamic families are also invited to come in to school to explain their beliefs and culture with our classes.

As part of our RE learning we look at different world faiths and encourage visits to other places of worship and visitors from other faiths.

Our work with the wider community has no barriers – we raise and donate substantial sums of money each year to charity and help a wide and varied set of causes, selected by our Pupil Voice.

We always look to treat others as we would like to be treated.