

ST AMBROSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL



BRITISH VALUES AND GOSPEL VALUES POLICY

September 2025

Review: September 2026

This policy has been written in consultation with staff and governors of St. Ambrose Preparatory School and with due regard to the school's mission statement:

At St Ambrose we aim to provide an independent Catholic education for boys and girls of all faiths aged 3 to 11; St Ambrose is an inclusive school where the Gospel teachings and our school values are at the centre of everything that happens in our school family. At St Ambrose we strive to develop happy, fulfilled, well educated, confident and caring children who know and understand the love, joy and peace of Jesus; and to show our Faith by the way we live, showing care and consideration for each other, those around us and the environment.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to be an exemplar Edmund Rice School, with an enviable reputation amongst our peers, both as an organisation and for the services and facilities we provide, making us first choice for parents and pupils in our geographic area.

Our Ethos & Values

At St Ambrose we provide a Catholic school community in which pupils feel welcome, safe, recognised for their individuality – supported by a community of love, and affection. We strive to live the Gospel in all aspects of school life and policy, following Blessed Edmund's footsteps.

St Ambrose Preparatory School

British Values and Gospel Values Policy

Mission Statement

At St Ambrose Preparatory School
we are joyful learners and are inspired to always do our best.
We nurture the many gifts we have been given and seek to use them wisely for the benefit of ourselves and others.

We put love into action each day so we are advocates of change in the world,
Living the Gospel and the Catholic faith and Celebrating the values of Blessed Edmund Rice,
With our family and the whole Ambrosian community.

'Have courage, the good seed will grow up in the children's hearts'
Blessed Edmund Rice

British Values together with Gospel Values at St. Ambrose Preparatory School

St Ambrose Preparatory School is a Catholic School which seeks to live out the values of Jesus Christ, promoting these through our words and actions, they permeate through all aspect of school life.

We try our utmost to provide a rich, broad and balanced curriculum, which recognises and celebrates every pupil as being unique and created in the image of God. Our curriculum is created to enable every pupil to be the very best that they can be, and to be well equipped to become positive, active citizens, in service to the world.

We ensure a wide range of extra-curricular activities and place a huge value on the pastoral support of all who work in our school. We incorporate democratic principles, value the rule of law, support individual liberty and foster a community in which different faiths and beliefs are equally respected.

Through our curriculum, extra-curricular activities, and teaching and learning opportunities, whenever and wherever possible our school promotes the inter-linking of Christian and British Values, ensuring all our learners understand the ideals and principles that have traditionally underpinned British society, to further promote cohesion within our school and wider community.

We prepare our pupils for life in England, where the population benefits from increasingly rich and diverse backgrounds, origins, beliefs and cultures, by promoting the values on which British society has been built.

Background

The Department for Education provided the following list, describing the understanding and knowledge expected of pupils as a result of schools promoting fundamental British values:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety
- an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies - such as the police and the army - can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination

These values are taught openly through Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and Religious Education (R.E) which encompasses the school's Mission Statement and The Eight Essentials of Edmund Rice Education.

British Values and Gospel Values in Action at St. Ambrose Preparatory School

Democracy • Student Council • Eco Council • Justice Society • Taking part in debates • Highlighting the history of the democratic practices • Voting for Head boy/girl, sports captains etc • Voting for choices in class i.e. Golden Time / EYFS – snacks/stories • Ensuring all pupils are listened to by adults • Holding mock elections • Making decisions together • Service and sacrifice • Humility and gentleness	Rule of Law • Creating class rules / Playground rules • Behaviour Policy • Taking turns • Being instrumental in involving the police/fire service in school life i.e. reinforce message of right and wrong • Teaching the history of the Rule of Law in England (i.e. a legal system created uniquely in a Catholic England, inspired by Christian values and becoming a major influence across the world) • Writing own 'Sorry Prayers' • Understanding right from wrong • Understanding that there are consequences to our actions • Truth and justice • Forgiveness and mercy • Highlighting the rules of the Church and God in the RE curriculum, i.e. the 10 Commandments
Individual Liberty • Encourage pupils to be independent in thoughts and actions	Mutual Respect • Having an inclusive mission statement • Constantly promoting respect for others as

• Encourage pupils to be reflective • Teach that 'difference is good' • Encourage visitors to school who can promote 'difference' and equality i.e. Para-Olympian visit, • Freedom for all • Faithfulness and integrity • Purity and holiness	good manners • Reinforcing the value of everyone's opinion in class discussions • Anti-bullying Policy/Behaviour Policy • Having active educational links with other schools • 'Show and Tell' opportunities • Treating others how you want to be treated • Modelling behaviour • Emphasising that every person is unique and 'created in the image of God' • Raising money for charities
Tolerance of those with other faiths • Highlight how RE provides pupils with a deep understanding of their own faith as well as awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as a basis for understanding and respecting them • Show how Jesus encouraged tolerance in stories such as 'The Good Samaritan' and 'The Woman at the Well' • Respecting others • Tolerance and peace	

Democracy

Everyone has a voice at St Ambrose, children, parents and staff have the opportunity for their opinions and views to be heard. Children are encouraged to express their opinions through the election of the School Council, there are also pupil/parent/ staff questionnaires. Democratic ideas are taught in History lessons e.g effects of World War II. Throughout the year every opportunity is taken to vote when the children need to make choices as a group. The pupils understand the importance of listening to others and respecting their views.

Rule of Law

The importance of rules and laws are consistently reinforced and referred to throughout the school day, in assemblies, class rules and in school behaviour. In the R.E curriculum the pupils learn about Christian value rules e.g The Ten Commandments. Pupils are taught to understand the reasons behind laws in that they are needed and that they govern and protect us there is a clear understanding of right and wrong, recognising that there are consequences when they are broken. Visitors from Fire Service help to reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Pupils should be encouraged to explore, reflect and be creative. While being safe at St Ambrose we will support and help pupils to develop their self-esteem and self- confidence by knowing and understanding the needs of all pupils. To make them become more confident independent learners, and to create a have a go mentality. Through the extra-curricular clubs pupils are given opportunities to choose what they want to participate in and achieve success in giving them a freedom of choice.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect is at the centre of St Ambrose. We respect everyone and everything. There is a clear message of equality treating others as you would want to be treated, and to listen and respect other people's opinions. Reminding one another that everyone is unique and created in the image of God. We constantly promote our school behaviour policy encouraging strict adherence to this, recognising how children should be treating one another at school. Assemblies promote respect for others and the importance of good manners. Through our charity work both in the local community and nationally, all children are fully involved in fund raising. Pupils work collaboratively and value the contribution we all make.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

As a Catholic Worshipping community, pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. Through the delivery of 'The Vine and Branches' pupils are provided with a deep understanding of their own faith and of the traditions and faiths of others. During the school's Multi Faith Week we warmly welcome those to share their experiences and ways of life with us, those from the Jewish and Muslim community and we encourage visits to other places of worship including local Christian Churches and Chapels, and the Synagogue. The pupils through these experiences will learn to respect others beliefs through tolerance and peace.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed by the subject leader and Headteacher. This policy will also be reviewed in light of any changes to statutory guidance, feedback staff or pupils, and issues in the school or local area that may need addressing.

The governing board is responsible for approving this policy. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all staff, parents and, where necessary, pupils.

Policy reviewed by:	Mrs. M. Cooke
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Review Date:	September 2025
Next Review Due:	September 2026

