



'With grace and humility, glorify the Lord by your life.'

British Values Statement

This policy applies to St Thomas More Catholic Academy & Sixth Form College part of The Holy Spirit Catholic MAC

This British Values Statement has been approved and adopted by The Holy Spirit MAC on 12th July 2021

Policy Ratified on: 12th July 2021

Signed by the Chair of the
Education Standards
Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. J. ...", written over a white background.

Signed by the Principal

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Next Review: July 2022



St Thomas More Catholic Academy and Sixth Form College **British Values Statement**

The definition of British Values was set out by the government in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and added to Ofsted inspection guidance in July 2014

‘To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.’

At St Thomas More these values are regularly promoted through learning and teaching, a rounded programme of assemblies and a positive behaviour policy allowing pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Democracy

Democracy is valued within our school. Our school has strong contributions from the School Council and Form Reps who are voted for each year by all pupils. Our Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Girl are elected by their peers and staff. The School Council works with the Senior Leadership team to raise standards. In these meetings students are able to discuss issues which affect their life within school. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates create manifestos, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret.

Rule of Law – consequences of your actions. (Right & Wrong.)

St Thomas More has a clear and positive behaviour policy. Through this we consistently promote our high expectations of all members of our community. We have our Mission Statement which emphasises dignity and respect for all members of our school community, which everyone is expected to follow. The merit system and Celebration Assemblies are some examples of the events are used as a positive reinforcement of good behaviour for all and positive contribution to our community. Those who disrupt learning are given sanctions. For any pupil who consistently disrupts learning there is a clear system of sanctions that involve teachers, heads of department, heads of year and ultimately members of the senior management team. This system has high expectations of all. It shows a clear link between right and wrong behaviour and therefore links to the civil and criminal law of England. Our commitment to developing young people who know the difference between right and wrong is reinforced in other ways:

- Visits from authorities such as the police
- During Religious Education when rules for particular faiths are thought about

•During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in a sports lesson.

Individual Liberty

St Thomas More School provides a safe and supportive environment in which students are actively encouraged to make choices. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our young people to make choices safely, through empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our PSHE system i.e. e-Safety and anti-bullying. Students are encouraged to participate in our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities.

Mutual respect (Caring, sharing and listening to others.)

We believe that respect for others is a fundamental element of moral development. We encourage discussions in all areas but particularly in lessons such as Catholic Citizenship, RE, English, Geography and History. We actively support all to develop their own reasoned views about moral and ethical issues. We encourage all pupils to understand that they have rights and responsibilities as members of St Francis of Assisi CTC and the wider community. Discussions focus on ways we can help and support those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs

At St Thomas More School we aim to promote the understanding and appreciation of different faiths and cultures both within our school and the wider world. We actively promote courtesy and good manners towards all. In our RE curriculum we study key beliefs and traditions of Hinduism, Judaism and Islam. Students in Yr. 9 visit a Mosque and an Islamic exhibition. We actively monitor and tackle all forms of bullying and harassment (This includes cyber bullying, prejudice-based bullying related to appearance, SEN, sex, race, religion and belief, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment) in line with the 2010 Equality Act.

At St Thomas More School we will actively challenge opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including "extremist" views.