

BARKISLAND CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL
BRITISH VALUES POLICY



Barkisland CE VA Primary School is built on the values of the Christian faith and the promotion of Children's Rights, 'British Values' are an intrinsic part of our ethos and school culture.

The Government has stated that British Values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

These British Values align closely to our 10 core values in school:



They are reinforced regularly through the relationships, language and attitudes in school as well as through many practical opportunities:

Democracy:

Every child has opportunities to influence decisions on matters that affect them.

School has a well-established system of democratic processes e.g. our Every Voice Matters initiative where every child is a member of the school council, learning detectives, class rewards systems and various talent shows amongst others. Pupils learn about democracy through these processes and how their votes and opinions form part of the democracy. Our older children learn about democracy with visits from local government representatives.

'...pupils feel empowered to make a difference, both in school and the wider community' (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools October 2023)

Many pupils enjoy the opportunities they have to take on extra responsibilities. Some act as representatives on the school council, eco-council or health and safety team. OFSTED 2019

The Rule of Law:

Every child is taught how to live by the rules of the law and how this protects them and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.

School teaches children that everyone, children and adults alike, are to be treated with respect. School rules and behaviour policies are drawn together, led by the pupils, with clear rewards and sanctions in place. The school's yearly Keeping Safe week covers many aspects of children's wellbeing and safety. Our PSHCE curriculum includes various aspects around upholding the law and how to be a good citizen in society.

Individual Liberty:

Every child has the freedom to choose and hold other faiths, beliefs and opinions and respect the choices of others.

School has an inclusive approach where all children are recognised as individuals and their individual potential is 'grown'. Children are actively encouraged to make decisions and choices knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Children have key roles and responsibilities in class and across school e.g., class monitors, Barkisland Buddies, befrienders, worship leaders to name but a few. As a faith school, we provide a Christian environment for pupils to develop their own beliefs and ideas.

'Religious education (RE) provides a safe place for pupils to explore beliefs. It contributes strongly to pupils' understanding of diversity and differences. Pupils are particularly knowledgeable about world faiths.' (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools October 2023)

Christian values are at the heart of all the school does. The school motto, 'We believe, we nurture, we succeed', reflects this. The school has strong links with the church. Pupils enjoy taking part in events in the local community. OFSTED 2019

Mutual Respect and Tolerance:

Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

Collective Worship is underpinned by our 10 core values and themes are carefully planned to support the development of these. Major festivals and celebrations of other religions and cultures are embraced during Collective Worship also. R.E. lessons teach children about other religions and cultures, providing a broad and balanced education. Pupils learn about children of other faiths throughout the curriculum; topics encourage celebration of similarities and differences. In other areas of the curriculum, we actively encourage pupils to respect other people's beliefs, opinions and ideas. We provide a safe and nurturing environment for all pupils to exercise their right of freedom of speech.

Pupils are happy in school. They are polite and well behaved. Year 6 pupils pair up with pupils in the early years. This helps the youngest pupils to settle in quickly. OFSTED 2019

Pupils have lots of opportunities for personal development. During the recent diversity week, pupils considered themes such as inclusion and media influence. OFSTED 2019

Reviewed February 2024