

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Developing Church of England Education



POLICY STATEMENT

SC 12/17(i)

BRITISH VALUES IN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS

The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) is committed to promoting Christian values derived from the life and teachings of Jesus Christ in its schools. While recognising the requirement to promote 'fundamental British values,' these need to be re-formed in the church school context.

The SDBE recognises that British values should be appreciated as 'values for living in Britain' and also be seen as shared human values and as part of living well together harmoniously. Our church schools live out and teach distinctively Christian values day by day and endeavour to live by the Fruits of the Spirit, the attributes to be found in St. Paul's letter to the Galatians, "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." *Galatians 5:22-23*.

The teaching of British values should be aligned to those distinctively Christian values and the Fruits of the Spirit as a wider and more profound approach and context in which to promote British values rooted within a biblical framework.

The SDBE understands the key Christian principles that underpin British values as:

- ✓ Every person is made in the image of God; every person is valued and their voice counts;
- ✓ God is a God of order;
- ✓ The Bible demonstrates the need for law;
- ✓ British values can be summed up in the New Commandment, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." *John 15:12*

From these principles, the Board expects the concepts and values of equality and justice, freedom and responsibility and love to support pupils to "develop wisdom, have hope, live well in community and demonstrate dignity,"¹ this should be the out-working of these principles in our church schools.

Schools should ensure that their policy and practice in following the requirement to promote British values is documented, including on their website. This policy and practice needs to be regularly evaluated and reviewed. This must include robust systems for the school to effectively and fully exercise its responsibility to safeguard pupils through risk assessment and the prevention of any opportunities for indoctrination, protecting pupils against radicalisation, extremism in the widest sense and terrorism.

The Board recognises that the school's leadership, including the governing body, have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that their schools meet the requirements of actively promoting British values, although all staff are accountable in supporting this duty. To enable this to be done effectively, all staff and governors should receive regular professional development in this area.

By learning about British values and experiencing their impact within a Christian setting, our Diocesan church schools will prepare pupils for "life in modern Britain" and beyond in a holistic manner, enabling them to flourish as children of God, "I have come that you might have life – life in all its fullness." *John 10:10*

In this way our schools will be contributing to the living out of The Church of England Vision for Education: "Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good."

For Approval: March 2017 (*Schools Committee*)

Date of next review: March 2020

¹ *British values in church schools*, Pamela Draycott, 2016