

Vita Et Pax Preparatory School

British Values Statement

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Responsible	Head Master
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1. Introduction

Vita Et Pax Preparatory School is committed to actively promoting the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These values complement and are reinforced by our school's Catholic foundation and ethos of "Life and Peace" (Vita et Pax), which places love, respect and compassion at the heart of everything we do.

This statement fulfils our obligations under the Independent School Standards Regulations (ISSRs) 2014, Part 2, Standards 5(a) and 5(b), and the DfE guidance "Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools" (2014).

2. Democracy

Pupils are actively encouraged to understand and participate in democratic processes. At Vita Et Pax, we promote democracy through:

- **School Council** — Elected pupil representatives from each class meet regularly to discuss school matters, propose changes and represent the views of their classmates. Elections are held by secret ballot at the start of each academic year

- **Classroom practice** — Pupils are encouraged to express their views, debate topics respectfully and listen to the opinions of others during circle time, PSHE lessons and class discussions
- **Pupil voice** — Regular surveys and feedback sessions give all pupils the opportunity to have their say on school life
- **Curriculum** — Through History and PSHE, pupils learn about the development of democracy, Parliament, voting and citizenship

3. The Rule of Law

Pupils are taught the importance of laws and rules — both those that govern the school and those that govern the country. We promote understanding of the rule of law through:

- **School rules** — Clear, fair and consistently applied expectations of behaviour, understood by all pupils (see Behaviour & Discipline Policy)
- **Consequences** — Pupils understand that actions have consequences and that rules exist to protect everyone's rights and safety
- **Visits and speakers** — Visits from local community figures (including police officers and fire services) help pupils understand how the law protects them
- **Curriculum** — Through PSHE and RE, pupils explore concepts of fairness, justice, rights and responsibilities
- **Anti-bullying** — Our robust Anti-Bullying Policy reinforces that unkindness and harassment are unacceptable, reflecting wider societal laws against discrimination and harassment

4. Individual Liberty

Pupils are encouraged to make choices and to take responsibility for their own actions within a safe, supportive environment. We promote individual liberty through:

- **Safe environment** — Pupils feel confident to express themselves, ask questions and share their ideas without fear of ridicule
- **Choice and responsibility** — Pupils choose from a range of extra-curricular clubs and activities, developing their individual interests and talents
- **E-safety** — Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe online and to exercise their freedoms responsibly in the digital world
- **Anti-bullying** — We tackle bullying in all its forms to ensure that all pupils are free from intimidation and can be themselves

- **PSHE** — Lessons cover topics including self-esteem, confidence, healthy relationships and making safe choices

5. Mutual Respect

Respect is a core value at Vita Et Pax. Our school name — "Life and Peace" — embodies the expectation that every member of our community treats others with dignity and kindness. We promote mutual respect through:

- **School ethos** — Respect is modelled by all staff and reinforced through daily interactions, assemblies and the school's Catholic values
- **Behaviour policy** — Expectations of respectful behaviour are clearly set out and consistently upheld
- **Rewards** — Positive behaviour and acts of kindness are celebrated through house points, certificates and awards
- **Diverse community** — Our wonderfully diverse school community, representing many cultures, faiths and backgrounds, naturally fosters mutual respect and understanding
- **Collaborative learning** — Group work, team activities and house events encourage cooperation and respect for others' contributions

6. Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

Vita Et Pax is a Catholic foundation school that warmly welcomes families of all faiths and none. Our diverse school community is one of our greatest strengths. We promote tolerance through:

- **Religious Education** — Pupils learn about Christianity and other major world religions, developing understanding and respect for different beliefs and practices
- **International Evening** — Our annual celebration of the diverse cultures and heritage within our school community
- **Assemblies** — Regular themes of tolerance, understanding and celebration of diversity
- **Curriculum** — Through Geography, History, English and the Arts, pupils encounter and appreciate different cultures, traditions and perspectives from around the world
- **Anti-discrimination** — Our Equal Opportunities Policy ensures that discrimination on any grounds is not tolerated

- **Visitors and trips** — Pupils visit places of worship and cultural significance and welcome visitors from different faith communities

7. Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation

The active promotion of British Values is central to our approach to safeguarding and to meeting our Prevent Duty obligations (see Prevent Duty Statement). Staff are trained to identify pupils who may be vulnerable to extremist narratives and to refer concerns through the appropriate channels. Our PSHE curriculum includes age-appropriate teaching on staying safe, critical thinking and recognising influences.

8. SMSC Development

British Values are promoted through the broader framework of pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development. SMSC themes are woven throughout the curriculum, assemblies, school events and the daily life of the school. The school regularly audits its SMSC provision to ensure it is effective and inclusive.

9. Monitoring and Review

The Proprietorial Body and Senior Leadership Team monitor the promotion of British Values through:

- Learning walks and lesson observations
- Review of PSHE and RE curriculum plans
- Pupil and parent surveys
- Analysis of behaviour and incident records
- Annual review of this statement

10. Related Policies

- Behaviour & Discipline Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Prevent Duty Statement
- PSHE / RSE Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy

- Curriculum Policy

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