OUR LADY OF LOURDES

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Blessed Robert Widmerpool CVA British Values Policy: Promoting Fundamental British Values Through Catholic Social Teaching

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Our Mission

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6: 8

We are a partnership of Catholic schools.

Our aim is to provide the very best Catholic education for all in our community and so improve life chances through spiritual, academic and social development.

By placing the person and teachings of Jesus Christ at the centre of all that we do, we will:

- Follow the example of Our Lady of Lourdes by nurturing everyone in a spirit of compassion, service and healing
- Work together so that we can all achieve our full potential, deepen our faith and realise our God-given talents
- Make the world a better place, especially for the most vulnerable in our society, by doing ***'little things with great love'*** *St Thérèse of Lisieux*

We are a Catholic Multi-Academy Trust dedicated to ensuring the very best Catholic education for all young people in our community, whatever their circumstances. We promote these values by our words and deeds; Catholic doctrine and practice therefore permeate every aspect of our Trust's activities.

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum, recognising that every pupil is unique and created in the image and likeness of God (*Imago Dei*, Gen 1:27). The curriculum across all our academies is deliberately designed to enable every pupil to discern their vocation and become active, virtuous citizens in service to the common good. Religious Education constitutes the *"core of the core curriculum"* (Pope St John Paul II) and remains the foundation of our entire educational mission.

2. Context: British Values and Catholic Social Teaching

The Department for Education (DfE) defines Fundamental British Values under the *Prevent Strategy* and statutory guidance as:

- **Democracy**
- **The Rule of Law**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **Mutual Respect**
- **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

Within Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT, we recognise that these values have their historic origins in the Christian heritage of our country and find their deepest moral resonance within Catholic Social Teaching (CST):

"We are proud that Catholic schools promote values that are both Catholic and British, including: respect for the individual, democracy, individual liberty, respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. Our schools promote cohesion by serving more ethnically diverse and poorer communities. Catholic schools provide high standards of education which are popular with parents from all social, economic and faith backgrounds."

— **Paul Barber**, Director of the Catholic Education Service

Our framework draws upon Christ's example of radical welcome, pastoral compassion, and social justice.

We prepare pupils for life in modern, pluralistic Britain by grounding their personal and civic responsibilities in the Gospel.

3. Core Values: Theological Foundations and Imperative Commitments

3.1 Democracy (Participation & Subsidiarity)

"The Church values the democratic system inasmuch as it ensures the participation of citizens in making political choices, guarantees to the governed the possibility both of electing and holding accountable those who govern them, and of replacing them through peaceful means when appropriate."

— **Pope St John Paul II**, *Centesimus Annus*, 46

- **In the Curriculum, we will:**
  - Teach the history, structure, and moral importance of the democratic process, civic elections, and accountable government across History, and PSHE / PD.
  - Form pupils to evaluate public policy critically, interrogate media sources, and debate political arguments through the lens of human dignity and the Common Good.

- **In the Wider Life of the School, we will:**
  - Model subsidiarity by establishing democratically elected School Councils, Pupil Chaplaincy teams, and student leadership bodies where appropriate.
  - Guarantee that pupil voice is genuinely heard and acted upon through structured surveys, meetings with senior leaders, and pupil-led improvement projects.

3.2 The Rule of Law (Justice & The Common Good)

"It is true that the pursuit of justice must be a fundamental norm of the State and that the aim of a just social order is to guarantee to each person, according to the principle of subsidiarity, his share of the community's goods. This has always been emphasized by Christian teaching on the State and by the Church's social doctrine."

— **Pope Benedict XVI**, *Deus Caritas Est*, 28

- **In the Curriculum, we will:**
  - Teach pupils that just laws are essential to defend human rights, maintain order, protect the vulnerable, and advance the Common Good.
  - Deliver explicit instruction on the English legal system, statutory rights, and civil responsibilities, drawing comparisons with canon and moral law in Religious Education.

- **In the Wider Life of the School, we will:**
  - Establish clear, transparent, and fair school expectations, consistently framing rules as agreements that keep everyone safe and supported.
  - Apply behaviour policies anchored in restorative justice, personal accountability, and reconciliation.
  - Partner with civic authorities, including local magistrates, police liaison officers, and legal professionals, to contextualise the rule of law where appropriate.

3.3 Individual Liberty (Human Dignity & Freedom of Conscience)

"To recognise that our choices are not necessarily the only legitimate ones is a healthy exercise in humility. In acknowledging the goodness inherent in others, even with their limitations, we see the richness present in diversity and the value of complementarity. Individuals and groups have the right to go their own way, even though they may sometimes make mistakes. In full respect for that freedom, civil society is called to help each person and social organization to take up its specific role and thus contribute to the common good."

— **Pope Francis**, *Address to Civic Leaders*, 2015

- **In the Curriculum, we will:**
  - Teach that authentic human freedom is a God-given gift enabling individuals to pursue goodness and serve others, distinguishing freedom from selfish ambition.
  - Deliver robust, age-appropriate programmes in Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), online safety, financial education, and mental health awareness.

- **In the Wider Life of the School, we will:**
  - Cultivate safe, empowering academy environments where pupils are encouraged to make independent, moral choices and learn from mistakes without fear.
  - Support pupils in identifying their unique, God-given talents through diverse extra-curricular clubs, creative arts, and extracurricular opportunities.

3.4 Mutual Respect (Solidarity & The Commandment of Love)

"And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."

— **John 13:34–35**

- **In the Curriculum, we will:**
  - Provide structured opportunities across all subject areas to explore diverse human experiences, champion equality, and model constructive, respectful disagreement.
  - Highlight the dignity of work, solidarity with the poor, and historical campaigns against prejudice and discrimination.

- **In the Wider Life of the School, we will:**
  - Model mutual respect across all everyday interactions: staff-to-pupil, pupil-to-pupil, and adult-to-adult.
  - Promote fair play, grace in victory, and resilience in defeat through competitive sport and collaborative house systems.
  - Maintain a rigorous, zero-tolerance approach to bullying, discrimination, and harassment, intervening swiftly to uphold every pupil's dignity.

3.5 Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs (Dialogue & Universal Fraternity)

"The Church, therefore, exhorts her sons, that through dialogue and collaboration with the followers of other religions, carried out with prudence and love and in witness to the Christian faith and life, they recognise, preserve and promote the good things, spiritual and moral, as well as the socio-cultural values found among these men."

— **Pope Paul VI**, *Nostra Aetate*, 2

- **In the Curriculum, we will:**
  - Dedicate at least 10% of taught curriculum time to Religious Education in accordance with Bishops' Conference directives, delivering high-quality, academic study of world religions.
  - Provide critical media literacy and historical analysis to dismantle harmful stereotypes, and extremist narratives.

- **In the Wider Life of the School, we will:**
  - Warmly welcome, value, and support families from all faith traditions and those of no faith, celebrating cultural diversity as a source of community enrichment.
  - Facilitate respectful visits to places of worship, host interfaith speakers, and mark major religious festivals within an authentic Catholic framework of hospitality.

4. Governance, Monitoring, and School Responsibilities

To ensure this policy translates into daily practice across all Trust sites, the following operational accountabilities apply:

- **The Trust Board and Catholic Life Committee will:**
  - Review this policy every three years and scrutinise Trust-wide compliance and SMSC/Prevent reporting across all academies.
- **Headteachers and Senior Leadership Teams will:**
  - Ensure staff receive regular induction and professional development regarding Prevent, British Values, and Catholic Social Teaching.
- **Local Governing Bodies will:**
  - Monitor the implementation of this policy during routine monitoring visits, engaging directly with pupil leadership groups and reviewing behaviour/anti-bullying data.