

The Shrubbery School



A Policy for British Values

Version1:1 July 2018

Review July 2019

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1. Introduction

At The Shrubbery School we actively promote British values.

These values concern democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

This is informed by the Independent School Standards Regulations and our aim to create an ethos of equality and respect in school in line with our own school values. We also want to help equip our children for life in our diverse society, to increase their confidence and self-worth.

The DfE have reinforced the need **“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”**

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. At The Shrubbery School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

2. Democracy

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, voting for House and Vice Captains, choices of charity campaigns, Pupil questionnaires, class charters and discussion of policy with children. We encourage an open door policy where the children feel free and able to visit the head teacher and other members of staff with their ideas and suggestions. Democracy is also addressed within lesson time with the use of pupil votes, e.g. Young Enterprise.

3. The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. We encourage children to make sensible choices and be aware of right and wrong.

We organise and encourage visits from authorities such as the Community Support Officer; Police; Fire Service and MPs. These help us to reinforce this message.

4. Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices confidently and safely. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely. This is explored, for example, through our eSafety curriculum, PSHEE lessons, Young Enterprise Scheme and by the provision of a variety of cross-curricular opportunities. Children are taught specific skills in our 'Creative Curriculum' which enable them to make the best choice of challenge, both during lessons and home learning, to make them independent learners. Throughout the academic year, pupils are offered the opportunity to

participate in numerous extra-curricular clubs, workshops and events which allow them to exercise their individual choice.

Our older children take part in Challenge Schemes which leads them to make choices, organise ideas and contribute to the community.

5. Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through developing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity.

Our RE and PSHEE curriculum have designated topic areas to focus on other faiths and beliefs. An enquiry based approach encourages children to discuss important events and beliefs.

Assemblies, themed weeks and workshops offer pupils enriched experiences to deepen their understanding, tolerance and knowledge our culturally diverse society. The school celebrates the many languages spoken by our pupils, e.g. through sharing prayers in assemblies, visitors, trips, language clubs and festivals. Members of different faiths or religions are made welcome and are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

6. Mutual Respect

Part of our school ethos, as set out in our Mission Statement and outlined in the school Behaviour Policy involves children and staff respecting the rights of others. Pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters and displays around the school promote these values and increase the children's knowledge of the importance of mutual respect – in school, our local community, nationally and in the wider world.

We introduce our pupils to the United Nations Rights of a Child