



## POLICY FOR PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

The Department for Education state that there is a 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”*.

At Overchurch Infant School these values are promoted and reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

### **Our Mission Statement**

“Our school aims to ensure the children are equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding to help them thrive in an ever-changing world, and help them become caring, thoughtful, well-behaved and self-confident individuals who show respect for themselves, others and the environment.”

Respect and tolerance of other people’s differences is an essential element of all school policy and our commitment to inclusion bears witness to that. Our behaviour policy and Golden Rules depend upon pupils understanding their personal responsibilities and the rights of others to live and work in a safe community.

### **Introduction**

Through its curriculum, teaching & learning, and extra-curricular activities, Overchurch Infant School will strive to promote British values. By doing so, we will ensure that all learners understand the values that have traditionally underpinned British society. The teaching of these values will promote cohesiveness within our school and community. We will prepare pupils for life in England where the population has an increasingly rich diversity of backgrounds, origins, beliefs and cultures by promoting the values on which our society has been built. By teaching pupils these values we will help all to become good citizens of the United Kingdom or Great Britain and Northern Ireland. We have identified below how, as a school, we approach the values with the children.

### **Democracy**

Democracy is embedded within the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and regular questionnaires. The election of the School Council members is based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. School Councillors have also started to take things further and the children plan special days each term that they organise and run. Their ideas had to link to British Values, our school values and our superheroes. Each of the suggestions was debated and democratically agreed and have been planned into their activities.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Our school has ‘Golden Rules’, which are deeply embedded in our work every day to ensure that every child is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind Rules (laws) that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. At the beginning of every school year, staff and pupils revisit and introduce the ‘Golden Rules’. They are an integral part of our everyday life in school and we explore with the children how they help our school community and support us all to be happy and safe in our school environment.

### **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 our pupils to support them in making choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and a relevant education. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge; or how they record; or participation in our extra-curricular activities; our pupils are given the freedom to make choices. They also make choices regarding their own behaviours and are encouraged at all times to make the right choice and to take responsibility for that choice.

## **Mutual Respect**

Our pupils were fully involved in the creation of our Superheroes with the help of an artist to visually represent our key character values. Our School Superheroes have been in place for the last few years. They help us to teach our very young children all about character and values in a relevant and meaningful way. The children relate well to these characters. These run alongside our Golden Rules and our School Values of 'Work Hard, Be Nice and Never Give Up' and help to make our school the very special place it is. Our Superheroes are Freddie Friendship, Excellent Elsie, Determined Dennis, Equal Eddie and Edie, Courageous Colin and Respectful Poppy. Their names, mottos and symbols deliberately represent all genders, races and abilities which have enabled us to make links with "British Values". We also have our 20th Child Superhero to recognise children who consistently demonstrate or go above and beyond the character traits we expect. The Superheroes are deeply embedded into everyday life in school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small.

## **Tolerance of Those With Different Faiths And Beliefs**

Our ethos is based on Christian Values. We value the backgrounds of all our pupils and families and we undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate these. We have found this approach to be enriching for everyone as it teaches tolerance and respect for the differences in our community and the wider world.

At Overchurch Infant School we teach a values and character education. Our core values ensure tolerance of those who have different faiths and beliefs. We enhance pupils' understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education studies and P.S.H.E. work. Multicultural events planned by the SMSC/MEAS leader are also part of our whole school approach to learning about different faiths and beliefs. These events allow the children to learn about a variety of beliefs, traditions and customs, with visitors being invited in to our school to enrich and extend understanding. Through this our pupils gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. We continue to develop our close links with Hayfield Primary School and sustain our links with our Junior School to support our pupils in understanding the diverse nature of pupil's needs and that as good citizens they can work together and value each other's contributions to our society.

Underpinning all of this, are a range of curriculum topics which have strong links to the British Values. In following the new RE curriculum all pupils will learn in detail about key faiths such as Hinduism and Judaism and through this learning they will be taught to show respect for those faiths and others.

Through History pupils are taught about significant periods in British History and are encouraged to identify these in chronological order. In KS1 the pupils are taught about World War I, the Gunpowder Plot and The Royal family. They learn about significant British figures such as Guy Fawkes, The Beatles, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. Pupil voice within this work is of great importance.

Our History curriculum is complemented by our Geography curriculum which aims to celebrate different cultures and emphasises Britain today. In KS1 the Geography curriculum embeds Britain as a nation and explores its geographical structure. It also enables the pupils to investigate different countries and continents in their topic work.

The school follows British events such as Remembrance Day celebrations and all pupils and staff join in these events along with governors in the school. We support local and national charities in their events, for example Claire House Children's Hospice, Red Nose Day, Autism Awareness week. This develops an understanding of how we work together to support our communities and help those in need.

## **Outcomes**

Through our work and partnerships, pupils gain a good understanding of the values that underpin the privileges, rights, responsibilities and duties of citizenship. We equip young people with the knowledge, skills and understanding to make a positive contribution to the harmony of our local and national community. We develop responsible young people who support and positively value community cohesion. This policy makes a key contribution to the school's positive ethos. The Head teacher and Governing Body will assess the impact of this policy and monitor its operation. It should be viewed in conjunction with the school's other key policies