

Oxford Grove Primary School
British Values Statement
September 2023

Justification.

The Department of Education states 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 Oxford Grove we strive to promote British values through our embedded ethos, our curriculum delivery and the daily life of our inclusive school, helping pupils to understand their importance and how to apply them to their behaviour as responsible anti – racist citizens in a multi-cultural and multi-faith society.

Aims.

1. To enable children to know and understand the following five key British values that under-pin their role as responsible members of our school community and wider society. They are:
Democracy Individual Liberty The Rule of Law Mutual Respect Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs
2. To ensure that democratic systems and processes are embedded in the school's systems and practices
3. To ensure that children are actively encouraged and given the freedom to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment that provides an empowering education where rights and responsibilities are central to the ethos of the school.
4. To ensure that children appreciate the importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country and that these are consistently reinforced in all aspects of school life.
5. To ensure that 'Respect' is one of our school's core values, enshrined in its Mission Statement and demonstrated in all aspects of its daily life.
6. To ensure that the diverse community the school serves is a source of pride and strength and that tolerance and anti – racism are actively demonstrated, promoted and expected at all levels of the organisation.
7. To ensure children understand the importance of challenging negative stereotypes.
8. To ensure children recognise the contribution the five key British values, have on positive mental health and well – being, including their own self – esteem.

Objectives

1. To ensure all children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Arts, Class and School Councils.
2. To provide a rich and diverse education and a framework of boundaries for our children within which they can make choices safely, based on their knowledge, understanding and exercise of their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms as members of our school community.
3. To ensure that the mutually agreed school rules and values are deeply embedded in our daily work and everyday practices.
4. To ensure that respect is truly mutual and 'alive' in all the school's relationships, both internally and within the wider community.
5. To ensure that tolerance is an integral part of the life of the school, actively taught and consistently demonstrated and expected.
6. To evaluate the actions within our local and wider communities in order to pursue a more just and equitable society.
7. To ensure positive mental health and wellbeing sit at the fore front of our Curriculum.

Statements.

1. School leaders will listen to and respect the views of all stakeholders and reach decisions which take them all into account.
2. We will encourage the children's knowledge and understanding of their rights and personal freedoms and advise them how to exercise them responsibly and safely, particularly through our PSHE 'Individual Liberty' strand and our e-safety training.
3. We will encourage individual and collective responsibility through initiatives such as Play Pals, Reading Buddies, Maths Mentors and Digital Leaders and offer the freedom to choose from a wide ranging extra-curricular programme.
4. We will ensure our PSHE curriculum programme has a specific learning focus on 'Democracy and Law' and 'Liberty & Respect' with properly graded, age-appropriate studies across the age range.
5. We will ensure that the need for rules and laws is fully explained and that children are systematically taught, through PSHE and assemblies, that they are for our protection and safety and bring with them rights and responsibilities as well as consequences when they are broken.
6. We will ensure that the core values at the heart of our school ethos and behaviour management policy promote respect and children are taught what respect means, why it is important and how it is shown. This will be done both explicitly in both lessons and focused assemblies and implicitly through our consistently demonstrated behaviours and expectations.

7. We will instil the confidence to challenge any form of prejudice or discrimination the children encounter within their lives.
8. We will deliver regular assemblies and provide frequent discussion opportunities to consider tolerance together with prejudice and prejudice-based bullying; its causes and its solutions. This will be supported by our spiritual, moral, social and cultural development activities which are threaded throughout our curriculum framework and our religious education programmes of study.
9. We will promote positive mental health and wellbeing through dedicated PSHRE sessions, providing children with a range of strategies to foster positive mind sets.

Cross Curricular Links.

The school will promote British values through its teaching and learning across the subjects of the curriculum to help all children understand how the values have underpinned life in Britain throughout its history, geography, language, literature, sport and games, the arts, personal and social education and religions.

Through history studies, children will learn about the growth of our parliamentary democracy and its key institutions, including the constitutional monarchy, at an age-appropriate level. They will also learn about the democratic structures of our national government and we will promote civic pride by helping them to learn and understand about local government works.

Through our shared organisation and management of the school as a functioning community, learners will be taught about democracy and the duty of citizens to participate in and contribute to life in Britain. This will also serve to develop the skills of participation and responsible action necessary for living together in harmony as citizens of the United Kingdom.

Across the curriculum we will teach the importance of duty, loyalty and patriotism. Children will be taught to recognise and challenge, oppression in all its forms within history, society and the media.

Expected Outcomes.

Through the entirety of our work and range of partnerships, our children will gain a good understanding of the values that underpin the privileges, rights, responsibilities and duties of citizenship. We will equip them with the knowledge, skills and understanding to make a positive contribution to the harmony of our local and national community. We will develop responsible, anti – racist young people who support community cohesion and are unafraid to challenge prejudice in all its forms.

This policy will make a key contribution to the school's positive ethos and the realisation of its Mission Statement. It should be viewed in conjunction with the school's other policies especially the SMSC, Equality, Behaviour, Religious, History and PSHRE Policy.

Monitoring & Evaluation.

The Head teacher and Governing Body will monitor the operation of this policy and assess its impact through the regular use of stakeholder surveys.

Review.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head teacher and Governing Board.

N. Harvey.

To be reviewed in July 2024