

British Values Statement **for Alexandra Primary School**

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.”*

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. At Alexandra Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

British Values Statement

At Alexandra Primary School we aim for our children to become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. We promote the basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

Democracy

Democracy is embedded within Alexandra Primary School with both adults and children respecting the right for individuals to have their voice heard. We have a School Council which consists of two members from each class from year 1-6 who stand and are voted for by their classmates, reflecting our British Electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. They meet every few weeks to discuss a range of issues. These issues include social and moral elements of school life, such as creating codes of conduct for playtimes, charity fundraising, responding to a world crisis and modelling positive behaviour to their peers. The areas for discussion are then fed back to the rest of the class when all children share their views and thoughts. Where decisions need to be made, each class member has a vote to ensure their opinion is heard. The children have also elected a school secretary whose role is to take a leadership position alongside the member of staff who organizes the Council.

The Rule of Law

Our School Rules are clearly outlined in our Behaviour Policy. At the beginning of the year class teachers discuss these rules with their pupils and personalize them according to the age and needs of the class. A code of conduct for each class is devised with the children. All the adults and children belonging to that class then sign the rules, which are clearly displayed in the classroom. These rules are revisited regularly through PSHEE lessons, assemblies and class circle times and there are clear sanctions for broken rules. We ensure that children understand that school and class rules are there to protect us and are essential for our wellbeing and safety. Elements of the History curriculum also enable children to explore the roles of law and authority in the past. The children are taught the value and reasons behind laws that govern and protect us and the responsibilities and consequences when laws are broken.

Individual Liberty

We encourage our children to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Through our PSHEE lessons we encourage children to know, understand their rights and personal freedoms and the children are advised how to exercise these safely. Adults in the school revisit these themes through assemblies and circle times. The importance of making safe choices when using the Internet is explored regularly through the Computing curriculum and shared with the whole school and stakeholders regularly.

Mutual Respect

Our whole school ethos is built around mutual respect. We are an inclusive school where everyone is valued and has a contribution to make to the school. Children learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. The importance of working together is stressed in all that we do. Children are encouraged to respect each other throughout the day.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

All different faiths and beliefs are explored and celebrated through assemblies, RE sessions and a variety of visits and visitors into school. The children are taught that people have different faiths and beliefs and that we should respect each other. Children within our school are encouraged to share their experiences and traditions. Parents are invited to share celebrations from a range of faiths with us in assemblies and special events in class. The curriculum includes texts from a range of cultures to further raise children's awareness of different cultures, faiths and beliefs. Through this the children gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society.

September 2015

Alexandria
Primary
School