

Oldbury Park Primary School **British Values Policy**

What are British Values?

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, 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 Oldbury Park Primary School, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is richly embedded within the school. Children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, Eco Committee, and many other opportunities including Pupil Voice Book Scrutinies when the children talk about their own learning in their books. Our school behaviour policy involves rewards and sanctions; this is shared through all aspects of school life and also shared with parents, carers and children from Reception to Year 6. The children also have the opportunity to take part in a democratic voting system each year to vote for their House Team Captain. The children are also aware of the voting procedure for adults as the school hosts a Polling Station.

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 school, as well as when dealing with behaviour and during school collective worship time. Children 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire Service and Magistrates Court are a regular part of our calendar events and help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty:

Within school, children 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 all children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering approach to allow children to take risks without fear of judgement. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Children are further empowered to share individual views through being part of class circle times, School Council and Eco Committee which link directly to the Senior Leadership Team and Governors. Children are given the freedom to make a wide range of choices from attending extra-curricular clubs to supporting fund-raising events.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different Faiths and Beliefs and for those without Faith:

As a school which holds values at the core of its ethos, our school ethos of “Working Together to Learn” and the development of our Behaviour policy have evolved around core values of Respect, Collaboration, Communication, Concentration, Perseverance and Independence. Children were very much a part of the journey which led to these specific key skills. These are backed up during weekly assemblies and on achievement certificates at the end of the week. These skills, “For Learning and for Life” are taught explicitly within lessons. Adults throughout the school model, demonstrate and promote respect for others, as do older children who have tasks and responsibilities. A range of cultures and faiths are represented by the children who attend this school, which offers unique opportunities to learn from each other by sharing and celebrating their different faiths and cultures. Collective worship and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed up and supported by learning in RE and PSHE.

Sarah Pritchard – Member of staff responsible for British Values

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2019