



## School Policy for British Values 2020-21.

Headteacher: Catriona Mugglestone

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Policy Review Date:	September 2021	Catriona Mugglestone
Ratified by Advisory Board:		
Lesley Butcher		

At Merrydale Junior School, we are passionate about providing our children with the knowledge, skills and values needed to live successfully in Modern Britain. With this in mind, we teach a broad, creative and varied curriculum and embed our school values. We also work hard to promote the fundamental British Values in order to equip our children with the values needed for the wider world, as well as for our school community.

The DfE have reinforced the need to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation for 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.

In-line with the Department for Education's five-part definition, we promote the following British Values at our School:

The following lists show what we do to promote each section of the 5 core elements of British Values (these lists are not exhaustive).

#### Democracy:

- Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil questionnaires.
- The elections of our School Councillors from each class are based solely on the democratic process with children giving speeches and being nominated via class elections.
- The majority of our policies are discussed and agreed upon whilst taking in the opinions of as many different stakeholders as possible.
- Parental voice is also extremely important, and we continue to ask our parents what they feel about the running of Merrydale Junior School through regular questionnaires.
- Also, stakeholder voice is important and regular meetings are held between the representative advisory board and the Head Teacher to ensure everyone's views and opinions are valued.
- We also promote and teach the meaning of democracy through regular and dedicated circle time/PSHE slots.
- Our broad curriculum coverage also gives the school the opportunity to teach the children how democracy has evolved – this is through Vikings and Saxons topics as well as WW2 topics where British democracy could have been lost.

#### The Rule of Law:

Our regular circle time/ PSHE lessons are used to reinforce the rules that we must abide by not only in school but across the land.

- Whole school assemblies are effectively used to develop the sense of fairness and safety which come from rules and laws.
- The school has links with the local police and as such they come in during specific

times of the year to explain how they can keep safe and within the law (fireworks night/summer holidays etc).

- The children understand that the school's rules and expectations is a set of rules that will ensure that they will behave in a manner that will allow them to become law-abiding citizens of the future. They also understand that they are in place to keep them safe and make sure that all are treated fairly.

#### Individual Liberty:

At Merrydale Junior School, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.

- We are an anti- bullying school – STOP (several times on purpose – this defines what bullying is) STOP (Start telling other people – this denotes the action that's needed). The children are reminded of this at regular assemblies and during the work that takes place in PSHE and Circle time sessions.
- Children are expected to take responsibility for their behaviour – they are duly rewarded for exemplary (expected) behaviour, but they are also fairly punished for behaviour that falls below this standard
- We promote E-Safety through school.
- We challenge stereotypes and expect that all members of the school are treated with the same level of respect.

#### Mutual Respect:

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values and is underpinned in our behaviour policy. The policy sets out the expectations of the children across the school.

- Our vision and values identify the word respect as a main element of our core beliefs – it is revisited throughout the year in whole school assemblies and in the classroom on a regular basis.
- There is an expectation that children look after the school as well as each other
- We celebrate the achievement of others through our weekly achievement assemblies whether that be in school achievements or out of school.
- Children are encouraged to work in teams and partners in the classroom. Here the teachers are expected to model how to respect others despite the possibly having a differing of opinion.
- Merrydale Junior School is becoming an ever more diverse school. There are many children from a wide range of different countries. Our RE and wide covering curriculum exposes all children to those differences – the children are encouraged to ask questions about others in a safe and constructive manner.
- We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others.
- Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

The children will visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. We also achieve this through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice- based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE.

Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Through our RE curriculum, which teaches the main faiths and focuses upon learning about religion and learning from religion as well as understanding that there are those of no faith, we promote tolerance of the beliefs of others.

This Policy will be reviewed in September 2021 (or sooner, only if national legislation / policy demands it).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Chair of Advisory Board

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Headteacher