



Nitzan Reuben Primary School



Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) and Fundamental British Values



- 1) **(Yr.2)** Pirkei Avot 1:6 “Yehoshua Ben Perachyah Says,
“...judge everyone favourably.””

FBV: Respect others, respect those who are different from you, learn about others in order to understand and appreciate them. Recognise others’ gifts and talents, appreciate and accept different cultures represented within the school and in the wider community. Understand and fairly evaluate others’ viewpoints.

- 2) **(Yr.3)** Pirkei Avot 1:14 “He (Hillel) used to say: “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?””

FBV:

I and Me

I must explore my personal rights and responsibilities.

I must take responsibility for my own actions.

I must develop a strong, correct sense of right and wrong and act at all times within the law and according to values of truth and justice.

I am able to reflect upon and learn from my experiences.

I and Others:

I must also remember that I am not only for myself, but that I live within a group, a society of people.

I must not only take but also give.

I must share with others and allow others to share in my accomplishments.

While I work on perfecting myself I must also help others to grow, achieve and, in turn, make their own contributions to society.

- 3) **(Yr.4)** Pirkei Avot 1:18 “Rabban Shimon Ben Gamliel says: “The world endures on three things: justice, truth and peace....””

FBV: Citizens can influence decision-making of local and national government through the democratic process. Even those opposed to democracy are allowed to participate in elections.

The rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.

The law allows people to hold different faiths and beliefs.

The law protects people from discrimination and anti-social behaviours so that citizens can live together in peace. Citizens are permitted to argue and defend different points of view, as long as respectful and peaceful behaviour is maintained.

Jewish law gives clear guidance for acting properly in the business and commercial world. We are taught to act with high standards of ethical behaviour and display good middot (character traits) when we work with others.

- 4) (Yr.1) Pirkei Avot 2:5 “Hillel says: “Do not separate yourself from the community....””

We must understand that we live within society and have responsibilities towards others. Our actions should not be only for ourselves but also to benefit others. We must behave towards others with fairness, integrity, respect and concern for their welfare. We must do whatever we can to avoid and resolve conflict. We must keep promises and contracts that we make with others.

- 5) (Yr.5) Pirkei Avot 2:13

“He (Rabban Yochanan Ben Zakai) said to them (his students):

“Go out and discern which is the proper way to which a man should cling.”

Rabbi Eliezer said: “A good eye” Rabbi Yehoshua said: “A good friend.” Rabbi Yose said: “A good neighbour.” Rabbi Shimon said: “One who considers the outcome of a deed.” Rabbi Elazar said: “A good heart.” He (Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakai) said to them: “I prefer the words of Elazar ben Arach to your words, for your words are included in his words.” (ie a good heart)

FBV: i) A good eye: an attitude of tolerance, generosity and caring towards others.

ii) A good friend: both being one and acquiring one. Building values, attitudes and skills that promote, enable and strengthen friendships and peaceful relations between individuals and between groups.

iii) A good neighbour: a good neighbour can be even more influential than a good friend. Because of his close proximity, one has even more opportunity to learn from his good behaviour. We must learn to live side by side with our neighbours, in an atmosphere of peace and respect. We must care for our neighbours’ property and personal welfare. We must exhibit understanding and sensitivity towards them, contribute towards mutual benefits and actively promote positive and cooperative relations.

iv) One who considers the outcome of a deed: This person foresees the consequences of his actions. Such a person will be a responsible member of society due to his ability to behave with wisdom for his and others’ good.

v) A good heart: The heart symbolizes the emotion and desire at the root of every aspiration and action. Therefore a ‘Lev Tov,’ a good heart includes every thought and feeling that leads people towards goodness.

- 6) (Yr.6) Pirkei Avot 3:2

“Rabbi Chanina, the Deputy Kohen Gadol (High Priest) says: “Pray for the welfare of the government, because if people did not fear it a person would swallow his fellow alive.””

FBV: The government maintains social order and peace, and by instilling the fear of the law it prevents anarchy and wanton crime from destroying the fabric of society. We are proud and thankful to be able to benefit from the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and respect for people of different faiths and beliefs. We must learn, develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that enable us to contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

“Dina d’Malchuso Dina” - “The law of the land (lit. ‘of the Monarchy’) is the law.”

According to Jewish tradition, being a law-abiding citizen is one’s religious duty as well as one’s civic duty. Therefore, it is even our religious responsibility to pay taxes, observe civil law, and even keep the ‘rules of the road.’