



LAWEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

British Values Policy

Written/updated: January 2018

Review date: January 2020

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Promoting British Values

The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 for the social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) standard came into force on 29 September, 2014. The regulations state that to meet the standard for the SMSC development of pupils, independent schools/academies and free schools must actively promote what the Government defines as 'fundamental British values': democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Democracy

- To understand and respect the democratic process
- To teach pupils how they can influence decision- making through the democratic process
- To promote pupil voice in the decision making process and help pupils to express their views
- To support children to debate and defend a point of view
- To understand the value of team work.

The rule of law

- To help pupils to distinguish between right and wrong and to support children in taking responsibility for their actions.
- To ensure the school rules are fair and expectations are consistent
- To provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services.
- To help pupils to understand that living with rules and laws helps to keep us safe and protects us.
- To teach pupils aspects of civil and criminal law and discuss, at an appropriate level, how this may vary in Religious law.

Individual liberty

- To support pupils to develop their self esteem, self knowledge and self confidence
- To educate the children about their own rights and responsibilities
- To ensure the children understand their rights and responsibilities
- To encourage pupils to take responsibility of their own behaviour
- To model freedom of speech through pupil participation, ensuring the protection of vulnerable pupils

Mutual respect

- To support children in working cooperatively with one another and respect one another's opinions and views
- To help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life
- To encourage pupils to show initiative and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those in the local community and to society more widely

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- To teach pupils to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- To promote respect, understanding, acceptance and celebration of individual differences and a diverse society.
- To develop critical personal thinking skills
- To challenge stereotypes

A key part of our plan for education at Lawefield Primary School has always been to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background.

The examples that follow are some of the ways that 'British values' are embedded into our everyday life and curriculum at Lawefield:

Democracy:

Democracy is richly embedded within the school. At the beginning of the year, each class decide upon their own Class Rules and the rights associated with them. Our School Council act as one voice for the children in the school and its members are children democratically elected by their fellow classmates to represent them. The School Council is actively involved in developing policies and practices which impact on the day to day practice within the school. A majority vote system is used, so that decisions are made fairly. Children also have an opportunity to express their opinions in Pupil Questionnaires and Pupil Voice. Through the curriculum, the origins of democracy are explored through historical research of Ancient Greece, Roman civilisations, the Monarchy and Government. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, Reading Ambassadors and pupil questionnaires. Our school behaviour policy involve 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 Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced every day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through regular school assemblies. We have high expectations about pupil conduct and this is reflected in our behaviour policy. Pupils draw up their own Class Rules which link to the whole school behaviour policy. We have a merit point system in place in the juniors to incentivise excellent behaviour and attitude to learning. There are additional rewards for exhibiting responsible actions and respectful behaviour: Special Mentions and Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher awards which are all given out during a celebration assembly every week. Through our school's values, RE curriculum, collective worship and PSHCE programme, children are taught how to earn trust and respect and are supported to develop a strong sense of morality; pupils know right from wrong and about making good choices, even when it is difficult. Pupils 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. To help us reinforce this message we organise and encourage visits from authorities such as the Police and the Fire Service.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils 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 pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering approach through the education. Pupils 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 PSHCE lessons and are encouraged to take opportunities to follow their interests in a range of extra-curricular clubs such as: art, sports, computing and singing which allow them to exercise their individual choice.

Mutual Respect:

Our Class Rules, as well as our behaviour and anti-bullying policies, are monitored by the School Council. Posters and displays around the school promote British values and increase the children's knowledge of the importance of mutual respect in school, our local community, nationally and in the wider world. Children are taught to respect each other, to be co-operative and collaborative and to look for similarities while being understanding of differences. We care for and support one another.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

At Lawefield Primary School, we are proud of being a culturally rich and diverse school where children have unique opportunities to learn from each other by sharing and celebrating their different faiths and cultures. PSHCE education and our RE scheme of work helps develop children's understanding of and respect for people of other faiths or none and other cultures and lifestyles. Children also learn about different religions, their beliefs, places of worship and festivals. Assemblies, and themed days (such as Diversity Day) offer pupils enriched experiences to deepen their understanding, tolerance and knowledge of our culturally diverse community.

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