

# Whytemead Primary School



## PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES STATEMENT

The DfE have recently 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 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.

At Whytemead, we define these British values as:

- ✓ Democracy - the respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process.
- ✓ The rule of law – the respect for the basis on which law is made and applies in England.
- ✓ Support for equality of opportunity for all. For everyone to ‘be the best they can be’.
- ✓ Individual liberty – support and respect for the liberties of all within the law.
- ✓ Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

At Whytemead, we are a Rights Respecting School and, as such, we have embedded these morals, ethics and values into our everyday school life.

### **Democracy**

Allowing the children at Whytemead to have a voice that is heard is integral to our school. Democracy underpins our values. All children are treated fairly and have an equal right to express their views and be listened to. We actively seek opportunities for children to have their voices heard including through Democratic Circle Time Assemblies which allows every child in school to participate and share their ideas. We also hold democratic elections in classes for Eco Warriors and School Councillors.

Annual pupil questionnaires provide children with opportunities to voice their opinions about a range of topics. Children are also encouraged to engage in the learning process by developing independence, voicing opinions and ideas, making choices and responding to teachers marking.

### **The Rule of Law**

Children are clear about their rights and the rights of others. We ensure children are able to distinguish right from wrong in a wide range of situations. 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 and fire service are regular parts of our PSHE provision and help to reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty**

At our school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment. As an academy our aim is to empower children to make safe choices through the provision of boundaries and a safe environment. 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 learn about the importance of rights through the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools agenda.

**Mutual Respect**

Our aims and values include the importance of respect, discussions and assemblies promote and explore respect for self and others which is reinforced in our behaviour policy. Children thoroughly enjoy lessons and are active learners who display very good behaviour because they understand the right of all children to learn and thrive in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Children are expected to treat the views and opinions of others with respect even if they differ from their own.

**Tolerance of those with different faiths or beliefs**

All staff are committed to developing the language children need to express their views, emotions and feelings so they are able to negotiate and resolve disagreements peacefully. We actively seek opportunities to enhance children's understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society by providing real life experiences, for example, visiting shops, restaurants, the local Church and through assemblies, RE lessons and discussions, children are supported in their learning about diversity, respect and tolerance.