

St Levan Primary School

where all children SHINE-for life

Promoting British Values Policy - April 2017

Introduction

At St Levan School we believe that we have an important role in actively promoting fundamental British values. In June 2014, the Secretary of State for Education announced that schools would be required to actively promote British values from September 2014.

The DfE have reinforced the need *"to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values."*

The government originally set out its definition of British values in their 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The British Values are defined as:

- ❖ Democracy
- ❖ The rule of law
- ❖ Individual liberty
- ❖ Mutual respect
- ❖ Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

At St Levan we aim to:

- Actively 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
- Equip children with the skills to question and challenge in order to identify and combat discrimination, prejudice and extremist views.
- Encourage children to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.
- Ensure that principles are actively promoted which:
 - Enable children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
 - Enable children to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
 - Encourage children to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality and to society more widely
 - Enable children to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
 - Promote further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling children to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures
 - Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected

characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010

- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England

At St Levan we are committed to actively promoting British values and this forms part of our wider work in school with children in relation to their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC) and the broader curriculum. Throughout the year, the children build on their understanding of British values and how we use them in everyday life. At the heart of these values, lie good relationships in which teachers, children and the wider community work together towards these common goals. These values are integral to our school vision and ethos and are reinforced regularly in a variety of ways:

- **Democracy** – At the beginning of the academic year, all classes are involved in electing their school council representatives. School councils are held regularly to ensure all pupil voices are heard. The school council is closely linked with our governing body where the school governors are invited to attend any meetings that they are available to be present at.
- **Rule of Law** – All classes begin the year discussing the school rules and agreeing Golden Rules. Our Positive Behaviour policy is regularly reviewed and pupil conferencing is used to gain feedback on how our policy is working in practice. Children are taught through PSHE activities such as Circle- Time to respect and understand the rules that keep us safe and happy in school. E-safety lessons and visits from the local police and trips to the local fire station ensure children are made aware of the consequences of when laws are broken and how our responsibilities as citizens can keep ourselves and others safe from harm. The laws of e-safety are also reinforced to help children and parents understand how to keep safe.
- **Individual Liberty** – We always aim to ensure our children feel safe and confident within the learning environment we create. In doing so, children are helped to ensure they have a full understanding of the boundaries within a school setting to enable them to make sensible independent choices. Again, the school actively promotes the importance of ensuring children make sensible choices when online if unsupervised when accessing the internet at home. This includes the implications of the inappropriate use of this resource if it affects others.
- **Mutual Respect** – This is promoted throughout the day between children and children, adults and children and adults and adults. Our Circle-Time sessions are also used to promote a mutual respect for one and all where the children learn how their behaviours can have an effect on their own rights and those of others. We start each academic year off with a 'Welcome Supper' for parents, staff, children and governors to mark an agreed partnership between the school and home where expectations are accepted and respected.
- **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs** – Our school works hard to ensure our children develop a clear understanding of the diverse world they live in. Assemblies, Circle-Time, regular visitors, online resources, residentials and trips to places of worship are used to enable our children to gain a greater appreciation of different faiths and cultures.

Roles & Responsibilities

The Governors and staff at St Levan Primary School will:

- Ensure that fundamental British values are embedded as an integral part of the ethos and culture of St Levan Primary School
- Challenge opinions or behaviours in school by children, staff, visitors, volunteers or parents that are contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views
- Ensure that all visitors to St Levan Primary School are screened to ensure that they do not attempt to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values including extremism or radicalisation
- Ensure that our children understand that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety and that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law
- Teach our children about the democracy and the rule of English civil and criminal law and will not teach anything that undermines it
- Ensure all children within the school have a voice that is listened to
- Demonstrate how democracy works and by developing an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making by actively promoting democratic processes such as electing a school council whose members are voted for by the children
- Reinforce fundamental British values through the SMSC programme, PSHE curriculum and the assembly programme
- Ensure that our children are taught a balanced RE curriculum, that is broadly Christian but, which also takes account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Britain
- Ensure that our children understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- Ensure that we develop a tolerance and understanding of different faiths, cultures and beliefs by visiting places of worship, inviting visiting speakers to the school and using teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help children understand a range of faiths
- Enable our children to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to our local community and life in modern Britain
- Enable our children to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in the community of the school. E.g. supporting younger children in lessons and delivering extra-curricular activities
- Deliver a balanced programme of assemblies which promote children' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, providing clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong
- Ensure an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination, extremism and radicalisation
- Ensure that there are effective risk assessments and screening policies and procedures in place to safeguard and promote children' welfare against the threat of extremism and radicalisation.

Monitoring and review

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy and for seeking the views of staff, children and parents. The Headteacher will report to the governing body on the effectiveness of this policy.

This policy was approved by the full governing body in May 2017. It is due for review by May 2018.