

# **BRITISH VALUES STATEMENT THE SKYLARK FEDERATION**

In September 2014 the Department for Education introduced a statutory duty for schools to promote British values, and to ensure they are taught.

British values include:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Respect for those with different faiths and beliefs.

At each of our Skylark Federation schools we take our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain very seriously. We value the ethnic backgrounds of all pupils and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate and explore these alongside other cultures in our country. We ensure that the fundamental British values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of our schools.

Our curriculums provide excellent opportunities to deepen and strengthen understanding, developing the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of our children. All children are involved in developing their own class rules and expectations of being good learners, based on each school's aims and values. Whole school assemblies introduce themes to focus all children on understanding and embracing these values and aims. This approach to developing values-based understanding from the moment they start school provides our children with a platform for embracing difference and striving for their own goals.

At each Skylark school we value the voice of the child and promote democratic processes such as our School Councils and Pupil Governors, whose members are elected by their peers. Ideas and events are planned and discussed with a chance for debate and putting forward points of view.

Children are given responsibility for leading their house teams, their Sports Councils (and our PE lessons and sports clubs promote the concept of 'fair play')

and other children in celebrating achievements or running activities so that they are fully involved in all aspects of school life. Each class supports a chosen charity and our pupils' leadership of this is important. Our older children have the opportunity to be prefects, helping to promote our core values and high expectations of behaviour.

Our duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism through adherence to The Prevent Strategy ensures that any dissent or opposition to these fundamental British values is not tolerated at our Skylark Federation schools.