

# Burwell Village College Primary School

## Promoting British Values

### INTRODUCTION

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.”*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/380595/SMSC\\_Guidance\\_Maintained\\_Schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf)

At Burwell Primary School, these fundamental democratic values are promoted and embedded into all parts of school life. Our school ethos and policies such as SMSC and Community Cohesion reflect these values, ensuring that all members of our school understand their importance and how they are essential to enable us to operate as a community. It is important that while the DfE use the term 'British Values', for some the term 'Democratic Values' better helps to demonstrate that these are values recognised and shared by many other nations outside Britain. Some describe them simply as 'Human Values'.

**The DfE states that the aims of promoting British Values to children in maintained schools from the age of 5 to 18 are to**

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people; and
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

As a result the DfE expects that pupils will have:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence;
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

It is not necessary for schools or individuals to 'promote' teachings, beliefs or opinions that conflict with their own, but neither is it acceptable for schools to promote or allow discrimination against people or groups on the basis of their belief, opinion or background.

**As a Primary school we build on what the children have already learnt from home, pre-school and their local community and help lay the foundations of understanding British or Democratic Values. The following outlines what we do at Burwell Primary School.**

### Rights & Responsibilities

- I have the right to be heard and the responsibility to listen to others
- I have the right to be safe and healthy and the responsibility to keep myself and others safe and healthy
- I have the right to learn and the responsibility to do my best at all times
- I have the right to have friends and the responsibility to be kind to others
- I have the right to be myself and the responsibility to respect others' differences

Many of the British Values set out by the DfE in 2014 were already encapsulated in Burwell's school ethos and core values:

**Burwell Village College Primary School**

Our ethos is **Learning, Loving, Laughing.**

*"Everything you need to succeed in life" Year 6 pupil*

We are a school where the staff, parents, governors and the wider community work in partnership to provide our children with:

- High quality **Learning** – developing academic skills through purposeful lessons which allow our children to achieve their full potential.
- **Loving** – equipping our children with the social and emotional skills to meet the challenges of education, work and life.
- **Laughing** – all this in a happy, caring and stimulating learning environment.

The following highlights the core values that we believe are important for our children:

<b>Learning</b>	<b>Loving</b>	<b>Laughing</b>
<p>Effort / endeavour Practice Determination/Perseverance <b>Confidence / Self belief</b> <b>Independence</b> Quality / Excellence Cooperation / team work Patience Understanding Appreciation Thinking / thoughtfulness Courage / Determination <b>Positive Attitude</b> Participation Responsibility Creativity Investigation Questioning</p>	<p><b>Respect</b> of self Respect of others Respect of environment <b>Friendship</b> <b>Responsibility</b> <b>Tolerance</b> <b>Self-Belief</b> <b>Honesty</b> <b>Generosity</b> / Sharing Hope Unity / <b>Belonging</b> Trust Caring / Helpful Humility / Modest Honour / reputation Peace <b>Freedom</b> Simplicity Calm &amp; Gentle Kind, Polite &amp; Helpful</p> <p><b><u>Following the Golden Rules</u></b></p>	<p><b>Happiness</b> Fun Pleasure Enjoyment Contentment Confidence Self-belief Friendship</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What have I learnt today?</li> <li>• How can I get better at...?</li> <li>• What are my Learning Behaviours?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What can I do to be a good member of this community?</li> <li>• What can I do to be a good member of the global community?</li> <li>• How do I show respect?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Am I happy?</li> <li>• How can I make others happy?</li> <li>• How can I show friendship?</li> </ul>

At **Burwell Village College Primary School**, we already promote the core aspects of British or Democratic values through the SMSC, PSHE, RE and Behaviour work which is integrated throughout every year group. We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff and provide a model of behaviour for pupils.

Through the ethos of the school and the systems in place, British or Democratic values are reinforced in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

Democracy is well represented within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through the election of School Council members and House Captains. The School Council, which is elected in a democratic way, is the pupils' opportunity to raise issues, decide how money is spent, organise events and activities for the school and put forward their suggestions for school improvements. Pupil opinion is also given voice through meetings with the head, pupil questionnaires and the Year 6 exit survey.

Our school behaviour policy involves incentives, including golden time which the children get to choose their own rewards and also a activity which is chosen by the pupils. . Through our use of the restorative approach, children understand that they have a right to be heard.

Within all areas of the curriculum, children are taught the importance of listening to others and considering their viewpoint, allowing the pupils to gain a full understanding of democracy.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, sports, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Burwell through class activities, assemblies or when dealing with behaviour issues. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules and values of the school. We involve pupils in all areas of rulemaking, rewards and sanctions within the school. At the beginning of each school year the children work together to create a set of class expectations which set out the rules of their classroom, as well as recapping the school's **Golden Rules**.

The House Point system, which rewards children who consistently try their best to behave, encourages pupils to try their hardest. Equally, the consistency shown in dealing with negative behaviour ensures that all children learn the importance of laws, not just within school but within the community

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. Visits from authorities such as the Police and local PCSOs and the Burwell Fire Service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty (Personal responsibility)**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. This can be everything from taking part in sports events, class assemblies and school shows to speaking in front of the class and taking responsibility to do jobs. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through of provision of a safe environment and through the PSHE curriculum. Personal liberty also incorporates understanding that it is ok to express what they would be happy to do or to say "no". This is balanced with an expectation that it is right to try new things even if they are challenging or scary because school is a safe and supportive place in which to try new things.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices whether it is through choice of challenges in lessons, choice from the homework menu, individual research in topics and participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and activities.

### **Mutual Respect (Social Responsibility)**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around Learning, Loving & Laughing and the associated Core Values - in particular Respect. Pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies often related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Our use of positive behaviour policy and restorative approaches to challenging behaviour builds an understanding of the need for respectful behaviour towards all members of our school.

Respect is also shown through the way in which individuals or communities support others in need. At Burwell the school is committed to helping others through a range of charitable activities. As part of the curriculum, each year group raises money for a charity chosen by the pupils.

### **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving our school ethos have been followed and supported by learning in RE. The school uses the range of cultural diversity within the school staff and pupils' families to support pupils' learning. Members of different faiths or religions have been in school to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Issues of intolerance are dealt with immediately both individually and through whole class discussions.

## **British or Democratic Values at Burwell Primary School Means that we will:**

### **Democracy**

- work **together** to improve the world around us
  - solve arguments and problems by **talking**
- **listen** to each other even if we have different opinions
- make decisions by taking a fair **vote** and abide by the decision

### **The rule of Law**

- follow the **Golden Rules**
  - learn **right** from wrong
  - learn to be **responsible** for our actions
- lead by **example** and encourage others to follow the rules

### **Individual Liberty**

- learn to make our own **choices** and know that they can effect others
  - learn to make the **right choices** for ourselves
  - learn to make the **right choices** for other people
- learn to be **confident** to say what we think and do what we do

### **Mutual Respect**

- believe that all people are **equal** regardless of gender, disability, race, religion
  - learn to **love** and not bully
  - remain **polite**, listen to each other and take turns
  - actively **help** others where ever and whoever they are

### **Tolerance of those with different faiths & beliefs**

- **learn** about different faiths and cultures around the world
- look for **similarities** we share and reflect respectfully on differences
  - Recognise we are **members** of

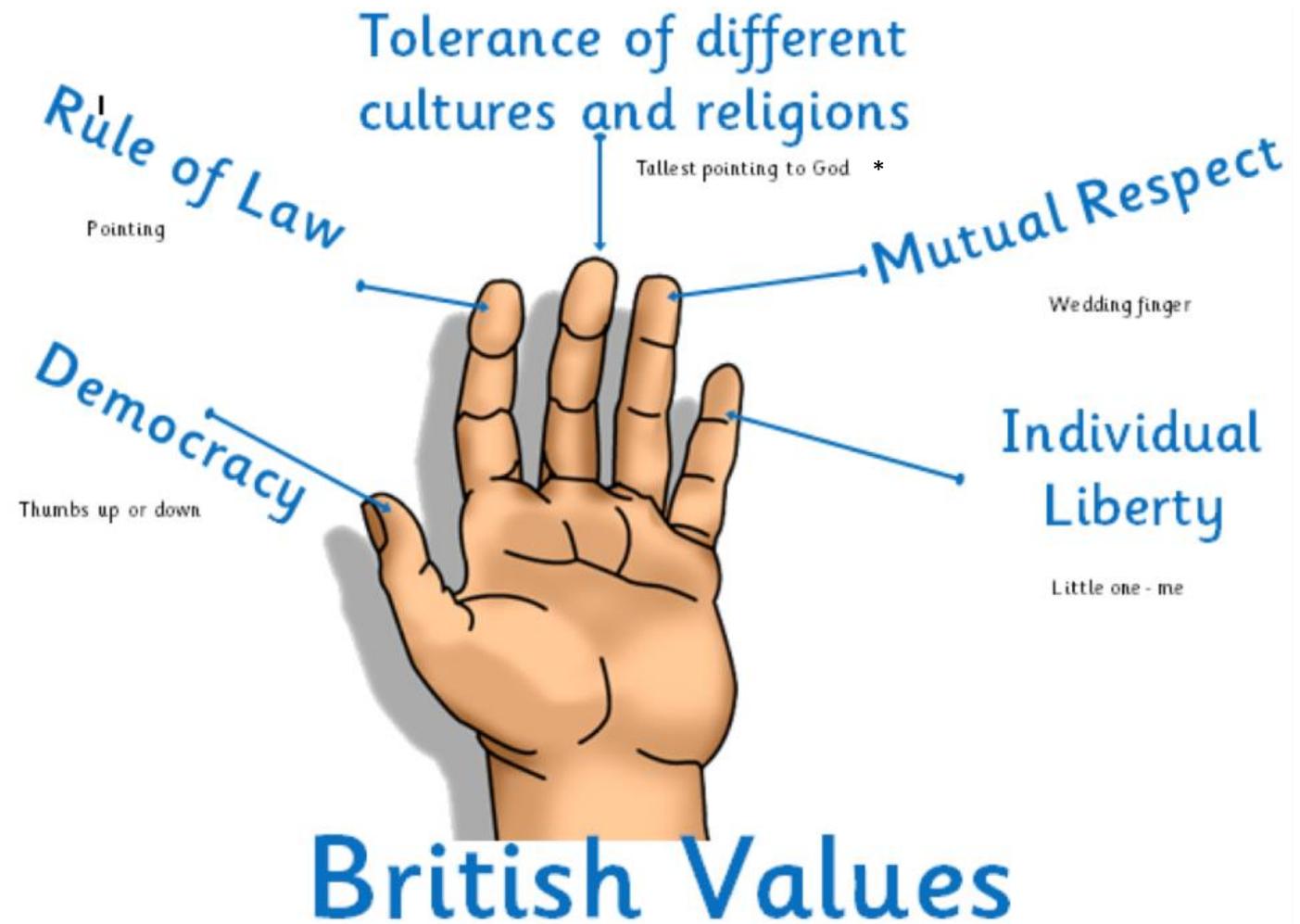
**Burwell Village College Primary School**

the **Burwell Community**

the **British Community**

and the **World Community**

Some schools have used the following as a means of remembering British Values.



*\*Tallest finger: when all standing together –this finger is taller so stands out. We need to be tolerant and respectful of anyone who has a different belief , culture or faith.*

