

## Promoting British Values at Oak Hill First School

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five British Values are:

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

At Oak Hill First School, we are committed to promoting values which ensure our children develop a strong sense of social and moral responsibility and which prepare them for life in Modern Britain. Values such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and our tolerance of those with different faiths are embedded in our ethos and promoted in a variety of ways throughout the school.

### Democracy

All children are treated fairly and have a right to express their views and be listened to. Our children are listened to by adults and are taught to actively listen to one another, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Children have the opportunity to share opinions and ideas through Circle Times, through our School Council and Eco Council and regular 'pupil voice' interviews and questionnaires. Elections of the School Council members and Eco Council is based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action.

### The Rule of Law

The importance of laws and how they keep us safe, whether they be those that govern the school, local community or the country are consistently reinforced throughout each school day as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies.

Children are taught the reasons behind the school rules and the importance of observing these rules alongside the consequences should they not follow them. Visits from outside agencies such as the Police and Fire Service reinforce messages that we all have a responsibility to follow law and that there are consequences when laws are broken. Our ethos also enables children to think about how to make amends.

## **Individual Liberty**

Within school, children are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Our children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely through many curriculum subjects, particularly in PSHE and e-safety lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how to record, participation in our numerous clubs, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. Our children are encouraged to express their own thoughts and feelings but are also made aware that their view may not impinge on others. Assemblies also focus on those who have fought for liberty, e.g. Remembrance Day.

## **Mutual respect**

Respect is an important value to the children and staff of Oak Hill First School and it is deeply embedded in learning and behaviour. Children understand that it is expected and that it is imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have, and to everything, however big or small. It underpins our work every day, both in and out of the classroom. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment.

## **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

We aim to enhance children's understanding of different faiths and beliefs through curriculum provision (Religious Education, P.S.H.E., school visits to other places) and assemblies. We aim to equip our children with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving the opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. Additionally, children are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school and celebrate festivities throughout the calendar year. We participate in diverse celebrations, e.g. Eid, Diwali, Chinese New Year, Christmas, etc. British culture is emphasised, for example, by celebrating the British Saints Days, e.g. St George's Day on 23rd April.

As a school, we strive endlessly to ensure that our children leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our society.