



**St John's**  
School Billericay

# **Promoting British Values**

Date: September 2023  
Those Responsible: Mrs A Fleming – Deputy Headteacher

To be reviewed: August 2024

At St John's, we aim to provide an education which actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. This will help to effectively prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

We promote 'British Values' through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural education which permeates through the school's curriculum and supports the development of the 'whole child'.

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 our pupils. The curriculum in all phases offers broad and balanced opportunities.

### **Democracy: Learning about and taking an active role in making decisions together**

The ability to understand and communicate are the most important areas of learning. We ensure that pupils are given a voice to communicate their views. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard.

We encourage children to see their role in the bigger picture, helping children to know their views count, showing consideration for other's opinions and values. We capitalise on opportunities for talking about feelings, e.g., when children do and do not need help and to develop inquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.

We have an active School Council in the Kindergarten, Junior and Senior departments of our school. The election of the School Council members reflects the British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: the candidates campaign, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret etc. Made up of one representative from each class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. The council can bring about change within the school; in the past, the School Council has introduced more play equipment at lunch times, developed the school menu and influenced the trips that are operated. The Council are actively involved in providing teachers with feedback.

We demonstrate democracy in action whenever we can e.g., children sharing views not only via the School Council but also through pupil questionnaires and opportunities to share their views on a daily basis. Staff support the decisions that children make and provide a wide range of activities that involve participation, sharing and collaboration as part of group, to enable them to develop social skills. As part of positive behaviour management, we promote non-violence and encourage children to deal with conflict peacefully, including opportunities for children to contribute to decisions about accepted behaviour where age/ stage appropriate.

We empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each pupil and by listening and responding

to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty.

### **Rule of Law: we are all expected to follow the law, and other rules**

We aim to promote the development of a sense of right and wrong. As children develop, they learn about boundaries, the difference between right and wrong, and consider the views and feelings, needs and rights of others. Sometimes it is necessary to help children understand their own boundaries in certain situations, explaining why we do not accept certain behaviour. Boundaries are set in a way which helps the child to develop a sense of the significance of their own behaviour which encourages self-discipline. We keep rules to a minimum and ensure that these are age and stage appropriate

We have our own codes of behaviour which help pupils to make decisions and choices that are acceptable to the school community and society in general. These are discussed with the pupils at the beginning of each academic year and as and when required. Please see our Behaviour policy, and our school rules for further information.

Pupils are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. Staff are committed to providing a consistent and predictable environment within the school and beyond. We help pupils to understand the connection between actions and consequences. This type of environment enables pupils to feel safe and secure; this in turn, promotes the optimum conditions for learning to take place. This message is delivered throughout the school day, and is supplemented through assemblies and PSHE.

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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- Cycling Proficiency lessons enable children to understand the rules of the road and the potential dangers encountered should they break those rules.
- During Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules

### **Individual Liberty - The right to believe, act and express ourselves freely and the freedom to make our own choices.**

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment, we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely.

We encourage children to develop a positive sense of themselves. Staff provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities. Staff encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions.

Pupils are encouraged to become good and valued citizens. We do this by supporting each pupil to become as independent. We endeavour to demonstrate that everyone has rights; this includes the right to say 'Yes' or 'No' to ideas or activities. Some pupils will be able to take responsibility for particular roles and to understand that with certain rights comes a level of responsibility e.g. our School Prefects, Silver book monitors etc. Learning to do things independently is an important part of learning to understand yourself. We support others by supporting a charity each term. We believe that engendering a caring and helpful environment and to be independent can boost and nurture a healthy self-esteem.

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely.

By teaching the children how to manage and understand emotions they will be motivated and equipped to:

- Be effective and successful learners
- Make and sustain friendships
- Deal with and resolve conflict evenly and fairly
- Solve problems with others by themselves
- Manage strong feelings such as frustration, anger or anxiety
- Be able to promote calm and optimistic states that promote the achievement of goals
- Recover from setbacks and persist in the face of difficulties
- Work and play cooperatively
- Compete fairly and win or lose with dignity and respect for all competitors e.g. at our sporting events throughout the year.
- Recognise and stand up for their rights and the rights of others
- Understand the value the differences and commonalities between people, respecting the rights of others to have beliefs and values different to their own.
- To respect and value our world, and the things, both material and alive that exist within it.

### **Mutual Respect and Tolerance - Treating others how we want to be treated, we should respect each other, and different opinions**

We have high expectations of achievement and behaviour. Children and staff are polite and kind. We listen and respect each other. We teach the children that conflict will be dealt with calmly and fairly. All members of the school family are valued equally. We celebrate each other's achievements during our assemblies.

Our prefects have been given key roles and responsibilities and they work alongside younger children. This helps to promote mutual respect across the school. We recognise that codes

for interacting with people vary between cultures and require all children and staff to respect themselves, other people in the community including those of different faiths and backgrounds, and the setting environment. Staff and pupil relationships are built on mutual respect and trust, strengthened through staff acting as positive role models who offer guidance and support when children struggle with conflict and emotional situations.

We promote each pupil's inclusion in activities, settings and locations that are appropriate to them individually to meet their needs. The curriculum is personalised and planned for pupils and may include transitioning within the range of resources and places on the site and going into the community to meet with a range of people in a variety of situations which include: sports events, community events and shared participation with other schools/colleges e.g. Music Festivals.

We believe it is important to facilitate opportunities to be part of the community as the pupils, families and staff have much to offer in the development of community cohesion. Our pupils take part in individual and collaborative fundraising for our school charity and also for our local partnership with Billericay Food Bank.

We are part of a school and local community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all pupils' experiences and awareness of others.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- Through Religious Education, PSHE and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures e.g.in English, Drama
- Celebrating cultural differences through assemblies, themed weeks, noticeboards and displays.

Activities within school support both children and adults of different or no faith, the children are taught respect and tolerance of these groups and the opinions of the groups are taken into account with all activities.

Whilst instances contrary to our values are relatively rare, each is treated seriously in line with our policies and expectations.