

## **British Values Policy**

Headstart School has a duty 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. These values were first set out by the government in the 'Prevent' strategy in 2011. In November 2014, schools were required to have a strategy for embedding these values and showing how their work with pupils has been effective in doing so; this was reinforced through the Updated Independent Schools standard (April 2019)

At Headstart school we uphold and teach pupils about British Values which are defined as:

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

These values are taught explicitly through Personal, Social, Health, Emotional and Economic Education (PSHEE) and Citizenship. We also teach British Values through the planning and delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum and across our weekly themed assemblies and 'Thought for the Day'.

The school takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through whole school systems and structures such as electing and running a successful School Council. We also actively promote British Values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values.

### **Democracy:**

Democracy is an important value at our school. Pupils have an opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. The elections of members of the School Council are based on pupil votes. This supports pupils to understand how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process. Our School Council is able to genuinely effect change within the school.

### **The Rule of Law:**

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. 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.

We encourage and promote good behaviour, attitude and work, we have a reward system which is consistently followed throughout the school and we are committed to praising children's efforts. We endeavour to praise the children informally, individually, during group work, in front of the whole class and during our Friday morning Rewards Assembly.

Children are rewarded not only for achievement in curriculum areas, but also for behaviour and demonstration of an excellent attitude on a lesson by lesson basis. The school aims to provide an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects pupils and is essential for their safety and well-being. Visits from external Agencies such as the NSPCC also help to reinforce key messages delivered in the classroom.

### **Individual Liberty:**

Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices at our school, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we provide boundaries for our children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and planned curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety teaching and PHSE education.

### **Mutual Respect:**

Children learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. Students are constantly reminded about working positively with others and how working as part of a team can support the development of positive relationships and an understanding of others. We aim to encourage honesty, trust, and meaningful communication with both staff and students at all times and this is reinforced on a lesson by lesson basis.

### **Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society; such work is delivered through the PSHEE programme at all key Stages and through weekly themed assemblies held on a Monday morning. We use opportunities such as the Olympics and World Cups to study and learn about life and culture in other countries and this is further reinforced through the daily themes where specific countries around the world form a key focus.

### **Our Aims for delivering British Values are:**

- 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 for and respect for their own and other cultures
- encourage respect for other people
- 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.
- encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.