



Sycamore Hall Preparatory School British Values Policy

At Sycamore Hall, we develop and promote British Values throughout our school and within our curriculum.

The Department for Education states that there is a 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”.

The Department of Education defines British Values as follows:

- Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process.
- Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England.
- Support for equality of opportunity for all.
- Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law.
- Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs. Our

children will develop:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- An acceptance that people have different faiths and beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination.

Vision Statement

Our school is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment. We value and promote shared personal achievement, high standards and respect for the individual. We believe that by working together we build understanding of one another and develop the self-esteem of every individual. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world.

At Sycamore Hall, we actively promote British values in the following ways:

Democracy

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 pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

All children are encouraged to debate topics of interest, express their views and make a meaningful contribution to the running of the school on matters that directly involve pupils.

Parents' opinions are welcomed at Sycamore Hall through parents evenings and opportunities to comment on whole school matters e.g. after school care.

The principle of democracy is explored in the History and World Religion curriculum.

Discuss the importance of school rules.

Children give views on extracurricular clubs.

We take part in Children in Need and raise money for other causes such as the Donkey Sanctuary and learn how we can help those less fortunate than ourselves.

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.

Rules and expectations are clear, fair and regularly promoted. Pupils are helped to distinguish right from wrong.

Pupils are helped to respect the law. They 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.

Pupils are helped to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals.

The Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies encourage the restorative justice process to resolve conflict.

The school has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to pupils, staff and parents/carers.

We are committed to praising children's efforts. Children are rewarded not only for achievement in curriculum areas, hobbies and activities, but also for behaviour.

Individual Liberty

At Sycamore Hall, pupils are actively encouraged, and given the freedom to make choice, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. For example joining lunch time or after school clubs.

As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment, a planned curriculum and an empowering education.

Pupils are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.

Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour. A

strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school.

We encourage as much positive praise as possible.

Pupils are encouraged to look after each other and help each other.

Mutual Respect and the Tolerance of those with different Faiths and Beliefs

Respect is one of the core values of our school. This can be seen and felt in our pervading ethos in school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small.

The school strongly promotes respect for individual differences.

Pupils are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.

Staff and pupils are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.

Actively promoting our values also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental values, including 'extremist' views.

Through the PSHE and World Religion curriculums pupils are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations, such as looked after children or young carers.

Cultural celebrations are discussed in class and we celebrate different festivals eg Diwali.

We offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected and global dimension work embedded in many of our Topic curriculum. For example Food around the World.

Assemblies and discussions often involve respecting differences, prejudices and anti-bullying.

