

# Fernwood Primary and Nursery School

**Tolerance of different  
cultures and religions**



## British Values Statement

### 2023-24

# British Values



According to the DfE, British Values are:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith.

**The Department for Education (DfE) places a duty on EYFS providers, schools, colleges and training providers to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain by developing their understanding of 'fundamental British values'.**

At Fernwood Primary and Nursery School, we aim 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 Britain
- 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
- 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 Britain
- encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (*age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex*).

## Our School - a summary:

At Fernwood Primary and Nursery School, we uphold British Values in all we do. We represent a rich and varied community of over 16 ethnicities and 49 languages.

Throughout the school, the children are taught about world faiths and celebrate many different religious festivals often using their own experience and knowledge to inform others. Tolerance and respect are key words and concepts which are emphasised throughout the curriculum, assemblies and everyday life e.g. Faith and Culture Day, celebrations for different religious events (Eid, Diwali, Christmas, Easter, Hanukkah etc), themed assemblies planned by SLT which focus on key character traits (e.g. empathy).

Alongside this ethos is a structure which support fairness, equality, freedom and democracy. This begins with School/Pupil Council members representing their classes from Year 1 to Year 6, similarly Eco/Green Teams throughout the school. As the children mature, there are increasing opportunities for them to be involved in debates and lessons where we encourage challenging stereotypes.

We pride ourselves on our community contributions advocating good citizenship and belonging. At Christmas, the children perform in celebration events e.g. Bramcote Lane Carol Singing, St Leonard's Rotary Concert whilst at other times of year we visit Wollaton Park or participate in local competitions - Nottingham in Bloom, Primary Parliament, sporting competitions, chess competition etc. At all times, there is a focus on community, team work, respect and social awareness. We also regularly donate to local food banks - children donated food items to school which we donate to local food banks or families in school who we know are in need.

The children's behaviour is usually exemplary. They respond positively and maturely to difference - this is a direct result of the inclusive and diverse ethos of our school. The children know right from wrong and see this modelled by older peers and staff members - we have playground buddies who help our youngest children to play co-operatively and fairly. We actively promote self-confidence and resilience within the children.

Throughout the school whether in lessons, on the playground, in the school office or in Senior Leadership Team meetings, we ensure that there are equal opportunities for all of our staff and children. We ensure children have individual liberty by allowing them to have a voice by sharing their thoughts, feelings, understanding and beliefs. We encourage children to be themselves, be true to themselves and be the best version of themselves.

Finally, although we are extremely proud of our achievements in promoting British Values, we continue to look for additional/different opportunities to reinforce such principles and qualities and attempt to respond spontaneously to a prominent national or international event.

## Examples of British Values at Fernwood Primary School - Whole School Approach:

### Rule of Law:

- Our children follow school rules which are integral to our learning and ethos every day
- School rules and expectations are clear, fair and regularly promoted.
- Pupils are always helped to distinguish right from wrong, in the classroom, during assemblies and on the playground
- Pupils are regularly reminded about their 'Rights and Responsibilities' and about how these are linked
- Pupils are encouraged to respect the law and we enjoy visits from authorities such as the Police to help reinforce this message
- Our behaviour policy states a zero-tolerance baseline for any form of aggression, abuse, sexual harassment or violence, which extends to pupils, staff and parents/carers
- The children undertake lessons on drugs, alcohol, smoking, crime and gangs, radicalisation and homophobia and the laws surrounding these areas (age and stage appropriate).

### Democracy:

- We have an elected School Council/Eco representative for each class from Y1-6. 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. Children also have the opportunity to have their voices heard through pupil questionnaires and pupil surveys
- The principle of democracy is explored in the curriculum as well as during assemblies and special days
- The children are asked to vote for rewards in school - ensuring fairness and transparency.

### Individual liberty:

- Within school, pupils are actively encouraged, and given the freedom to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. E.g. by signing up for extra-curricular clubs, sharing their thoughts, feelings and beliefs etc
- Pupils are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and our pastoral support reinforces the importance of making the right choices
- 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 RHSE lessons
- Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged. A strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed. The school also operates a robust system of logging incidents
- Pupils have key roles and responsibilities in school e.g. Year 6 jobs, playground, school council representatives in each class, eco team reps in each class.

**Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith:**

- Respect is one of the core values of our school. Pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone: adults and children
- 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 prejudice or discriminatory behaviour
- Links and visits are promoted with local faith communities and places of worship. e.g. Members of different faiths or religions are invited to school to share their knowledge and enhance learning within assemblies and in class. Children also visit places of worship: F2 visit St Leonard's Church; Y1 visit St Leonard's Church, Radford Road Mosque and Nottingham Road Gurdwara; Y2 visit Carlton Road Hindu Temple; Y4 visit York Minster; Y5 visit St Leonard's Church and Y6 Beth Shalom (Jewish Holocaust Centre)
- Through the RSHE and RE 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
- We offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected and global dimension work is embedded in many of our humanities topics and discrete language lessons (French). These curriculum topics offer children the chance to reflect on our core values and British values
- We aim to celebrate our differences through our annual Faith and Culture Day
- We are also working hard on a diverse rich curriculum which focuses on equality, acceptance and understanding e.g. reading books which reflect our multi-cultural society, SEND, LGBTQ+ etc.