



# Devonshire Primary Academy British Values Policy



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Person responsible for policy: British Values Lead

## **Promoting Fundamental British Values**

At Devonshire Primary Academy we uphold and teach pupils about the fundamental British Values. We strive to prepare all learners for life in modern Britain effectively, developing their understanding of **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

We want our children to be responsible and active citizens, who appreciate and respect differences, and have confidence and independence to contribute positively and engage fully to life in Britain today.

## **Expectations**

Pupils should understand:

- That different people may hold different views about what is right and what is wrong, but all people living in England are subject to its law;
- People can influence decision making through the democratic process;
- Laws protect people and are essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- Freedom to choose other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- That other people may have different beliefs and faiths to oneself (or have none) and these should be accepted and tolerated and should not be the cause of any prejudice or discrimination; and
- It is important to identify and combat discrimination.

## **Democracy**

Pupils 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 have rules to abide by and pupils discuss what their rights and responsibilities will look like. There is an emphasis on respect for self, others and the environment. Each year, the children decide upon their class rules and the rights associated with these; all pupils contribute to the drawing up of the rules and are able to give their points of view.

We have a school council, whose members are voted for by the pupils through a ballot day. The members represent the views of their class at meetings and also feedback points and decisions afterwards.

The Resilience Committee are representative of their peers and their role is to reflect the views and needs of all pupils. They have successfully bid for funding to improve the wellbeing of everyone. One of the requests from pupils was to have a school therapy dog and so a new 'Devonshire Dog' will become part of the Academy community in the 2021/22 academic year.

All children are able to apply for the position of Head Boy and Head Girl once they are in Year 6.

During the time of a public General Election, children in Upper Key Stage 2 discuss and follow the process of an election. Pupils get an opportunity to experience taking part in a secret ballot. The results are then compared to that of the UK election with opportunities for discussion.

Other opportunities whereby pupils can vote are provided, for example, voting for the Halloween lunch menu.

Children complete questionnaires that enables them to put forward their views. The results are fed back to the teachers and Senior Leadership Team, so that they know what issues are most important to the pupils.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Devonshire. Pupils are taught from an early age the school rules and values.

Pupils are taught to understand that rules protect us, and with rules there are responsibilities, and if rules are broken there will be consequences. This is reinforced through our PSHE curriculum. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service also help to promote this.

To encourage and promote good behaviour, attitude and work, we have reward systems, which are consistently followed throughout the school. We are committed to praising children's efforts and endeavour to praise the children informally, individually, during group work, in front of the whole class and the whole school. Children are rewarded not only for achievement in curriculum areas, but for behaviour and general attitudes. These are awarded in Star of the Week Assemblies. A 'Star of the Week' is chosen for academic reasons and a 'Super Citizen of the Week' is chosen for demonstrating the school values. Rewards are given in the form of stickers and certificates. Each child also collects dojos and the top house scorers receive a special treat at the end of each half term (chosen through the school council). Children's achievements are also recognised during Celebration Assemblies and parents are invited to attend, for example Year 6 end of year prize giving.

During our Star of the Week assembly, the school values are always reinforced by the Headteacher and one value in particular is focused upon each half term.

### **Individual Liberty**

At Devonshire, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school, we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through eSafety, PSHE lessons, assemblies and lessons.

### **Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. Through PSHE sessions, assemblies and classroom discussions, children learn what the word 'Respect' means and how this is shown. All members of our school community treat each other with respect and this is regularly reinforced. It is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our Behaviour Policy.

We participate in Anti Bullying week and each class completes a variety of activities.

We learn respect for others in the world, for example by observing the two minutes silence on Remembrance Day and holding our own service and decorating the school garden with artwork by the children.

### **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

Devonshire Primary Academy is diverse. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. This is achieved through enhancing children's understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Religious Education lessons, PSHE lessons and assemblies led by the SLT and the local Reverend, reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning, and the children visit places of worship (where possible) that are important to different faiths, these include the local church, Mosque, Hindu temple and Synagogue.