



## Promoting British Values at Withymoor

### **Aims**

This policy sets out the four key areas within which the DfE has defined British values, and the ways in which Withymoor students learn and develop understanding of these areas, both through the curriculum, extracurricular and other opportunities.

### **Links to other policies:**

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Equality Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Prevent Policy

### **Introduction**

As of September 2014, the DfE requires all schools to promote the historical and current values that underpin the national identity known as being British. Within this, all schools are required to ensure that the curriculum actively promotes these fundamental British values. Withymoor celebrates students and cultures from all over the world. Alongside this, the school is keen to support all students in learning about and deepening their understanding of British values, culture and systems.

### **What is 'Britishness'?**

Fundamental British values are defined by the DfE as:

- (a) Democracy: Respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process
- (b) The rule of law: Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- (c) Individual liberty: Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- (d) Mutual respect and tolerance: Support for equality of opportunity for all and respect and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

### **Government Advice to guide school policy**

The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 for the new social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) standard came into force on 29 September 2014. The regulations state that to meet the standard for the SMSC development of pupils, schools must:

- (a) Actively promote the fundamental British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- (b) Prevent the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school
- (c) Take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

**Schools must also ensure they actively promote principles that:**

- (a) Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- (b) Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- (c) Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated, and to society more widely
- (d) Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- (e) Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own cultures
- (f) Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010
- (g) Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England

**British values: expectations for pupils**

The DfE's non-statutory advice for improving the SMSC development in schools, academies and free schools, linked to above, has information on expectations for pupils. These include:

- (a) An understanding as to how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- (b) An understanding that participation in elections by those opposed to democracy should be allowed by law, but the success of such candidates is undesirable for the well-being of society if it would lead to the end of democracy
- (c) An understanding that bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account by the people, through the democratic organs of government
- (d) An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law, and an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour

**Promoting British Values at Withymoor Primary School**

The DfE have reinforced the 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 Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values were reiterated in 2014. At Withymoor Primary these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

We have a school council from Y1 – Y6 which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council has its own fundraising plan and is able to effect change within the school. Every child on the school council is voted in by their class. School council members visit other cluster schools to work collaboratively.

Through our curriculum children are taught about, and encouraged to respect, public institutions and services.

Children have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school.

Pupils are selected at random for pupil voice meetings with members of the senior leadership team to seek their views and opinions on a range of school and community issues.

Pupils in upper Key Stage Two are given the opportunity to take part in local debating competitions as organised by the local authority.

All parents, carers and children can make comments on the pupil planner that are responded to by staff.

Parental questionnaires are sent out annually – these also include questionnaires specific to E-Safety and Inclusion.

### **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 our school.

Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty**

At Withymoor, 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 our eSafety and PSHE work.

Withymoor has a robust anti bullying culture and behaviour and safety policies in place.

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

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. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Withymoor provide opportunities for the children to visit places of significant cultural interest, places of worship and we actively encourage visitors from a range of communities and organisations into school.

Children help to plan fundraising and awareness raising activities to support local charities as well as ones that are of significant personal interest.

### **Implementation, Review and Monitoring**

Implementation will take place by ensuring this policy is discussed at the governors meeting and ensuring all staff are made aware of its existence.

This Policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis and has been ratified by the Governing Body

Policy February 2016

Review February 2017