The Governors of

Herons Dale Primary School

have adopted the following policy:

British Values Policy

Reviewed by: **Isabel Robson**

Date: **June 2024**

Review Date: **June 2026**

British Values Policy

Statement of intent

This policy sets out the framework in which Herons Dale School will ensure that we actively promote the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

These values are officially taught through the RE and PSHE, RSHE curriculum and are further nurtured through the school's ethos and promotion of spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) understanding. All assemblies will link to the appropriate British Value to give real life meaning and understanding for pupils.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Equality Act 2010
2. Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
3. Ofsted (2023) 'School inspection handbook'
4. DfE (2014) 'Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

1. Prevent Policy
2. Behavioural Policy
3. Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
4. Equal Opportunities Policy
5. Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
6. Prevent Duty Policy

Roles and responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for the overall implementation of this policy and for ensuring that the British values are upheld throughout the school.

The headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.

British Values Policy

The headteacher is responsible for disciplining staff who do not uphold British values, in line with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.

Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Behavioural Policy.

Promoting British Values

Herons Dale Primary School is committed to serving its local community. We recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand the vital role we have in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

The school follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, political or financial status, or similar. We are dedicated to preparing our pupils for Secondary education and beyond, into adult hood and to ensuring that we are promoting and reinforcing British Values to all of our pupils.

The Government emphasise that schools are required to ensure that the key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five British Values are:

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

The school uses strategies within the National curriculum and other curriculums; such as Penny Lacey and ImPacts, to secure such outcomes for our pupils.

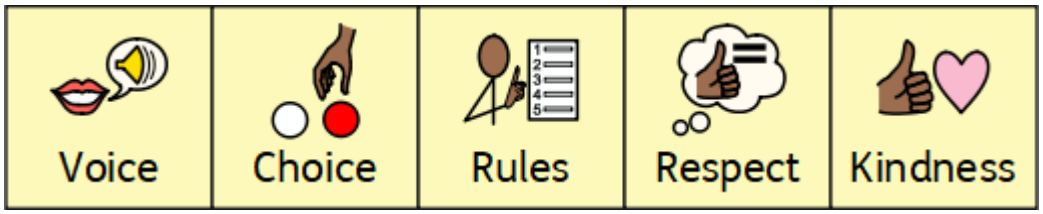
In the monthly Newsletter, we share with parents the ways in which the British Values are promoted at Herons Dale School and a display of photographs shows how we deliver input on British Values and ways in which they are celebrated.

We use simplified terms for each of the values, highlighted in blue below, to make the values more accessible to our pupils.

- Democracy - Voice
- The rule of law - Rules
- Individual liberty - Choice
- Mutual respect – Respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs – Kindness

British values are supported with associated signs and symbols.

British Values Policy



Aims and objectives

Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our pupils have:

1. An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
2. An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
3. An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence.
4. An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
5. An acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
6. An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Examples

The examples that follow show some of the many ways in which Herons Dale primary School seeks to embed British Values.

Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at Herons Dale Primary School, with democratic processes being used for making a range of decisions within the school community and beyond, for instance, the selection of student council representatives, deciding which object a class will investigate further as part of a history lesson. The principle of democracy is also explored in areas of the curriculum such as citizenship, PSHCE, History and RE, as well as focused events and assemblies.

Pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard, including through:

1. Pupil questionnaires
2. The school council
3. Weekly class meetings where votes that impact the whole school are taken and fed back to SLT.

Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

The rule of law

British Values Policy

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Herons Dale Primary School.

Pupils are taught the rules and expectations of the school and they are taught the values and the reasons behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Some of our older students also can be involved in creating class contracts which establish rules about behaviour and conduct, to which everyone in the class, adults and children, agrees to adhere. Visits form authorities such as the Police and Fire and Rescue Service reinforce this message.

The school has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect the school, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. All pupils are involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding.

Pupils are taught these values and the reasons behind laws, whether they govern the class, the school or the country, that are essential for their wellbeing and safety. Pupils are allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.

The school organises visits from authorities throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.

The school understands the importance of promoting British values through a comprehensive and unprejudiced curriculum.

Individual liberty

At Herons Dale Primary School, pupils are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure, and supportive environment. Staff at Herons Dale Primary School educate and provide clear and consistent boundaries for pupils to make informed choices.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand, and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely.

Herons Dale Primary School has a robust anti-bullying culture and has in place comprehensive policies on Behaviour, Discipline and Anti-Bullying.

A safe and supportive environment is fostered throughout the school, where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.

Pupils are taught about their rights and personal freedoms and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through teaching on online safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual Respect

Respect is actively promoted within the school. Pupils learn that their behaviour and attitude influence themselves and on others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect, and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments and the role models of staff.

Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment.

Respect forms a core pillar of the school's ethos. Pupils are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and all members of staff with respect.

This is reinforced through the school's Behavioural Policy and posters throughout the school promoting mutual respect.

Acceptance of those of different faiths and beliefs

This is achieved through equipping pupils with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them the opportunities to experience such diversity with the school community and through the curriculum offered. The school runs a Team Around Anti-Racism (TAAR) which works with the whole community to develop Herons Dales practice and embed its intention to become and Anti-Racist school.

Pupils benefit from having the input from staff from a range of different backgrounds and cultures in a meaningful way. Additionally, pupils are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school and celebrate festivals throughout the calendar year. The RE curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions, and cultures.

The school acknowledges that acceptance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity.

Throughout the year, assemblies are held focussing on bullying, with reference to prejudice-based bullying, and discussion is encouraged.

Acceptance of those of different faiths and beliefs is supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum.

The school encourages its pupils from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge with their peers to enhance their learning.

Challenging views that go against British values

The school openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and pupils, that goes against British values.

The school adopts a zero-tolerance approach towards discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour. Any pupils displaying this behaviour will be disciplined in line with the Behavioural Policy.

Referrals regarding pupils that may be at risk of radicalisation will be made in accordance with the school's Prevent Duty Policy.

Staff training

Members of staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction and through additional training. British values will be part of the schools ongoing Anti-Racism education training.

Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the values in this policy.

British Values Policy

In Summary

Herons Dale Primary School strives endlessly to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and to be able to contribute to Britain and the wider community as appropriate.

Equality and Diversity

We will use all available information to set suitable learning challenges for all, respond to pupils' diverse needs and overcome any potential barriers to learning.

We will work with our community to embed Anti-Racist education, curriculum and policy and be an Anti-Racist school.

We will ensure that the wider school curriculum makes explicit and implicit provision to promote and celebrate diversity.

Accessibility

We will ensure that all pupils have access to learning across all curriculums and in all subjects by making necessary changes to the physical environment e.g., height adjustable tables.

We will ensure that the curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of each individual learner. Individual targets will be detailed in each child's termly Personalised Learning Plan.

We will ensure that any written information that is to be shared with children during sessions is delivered in a way which best suits the learner.