



# BRITISH VALUES

## Devonshire Park Primary School British Values Statement

The Department of Education states that there is a need:

“ To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental 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 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 school ethos statement has our motto “a place to learn and grow”. Central to that motto is that as a school family we develop relationships of respect and trust so that our pupils are:

- Encouraged to respect different people’s beliefs and cultures
- Are enriched by experiences from the wider community
- Create a caring and safe environment for all

We promote British values in Devonshire Park in the following ways.

### **Democracy**

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Devonshire Park Primary. Democracy is central to how we operate.

An obvious example is our **School Council**. The election of the School

Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative and pupils vote in a secret ballot. Made up of two representatives from each class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. The council is able to genuinely effect change within the school; recently the School Council has been involved in buying buddy benches, changing the reward system and supporting pupils with Playground buddies. Members of the School Council also serve on our Extended School Council involving 6 other schools.

Other examples of 'pupil voice' are:

- children complete an annual pupil questionnaire on all aspects of school life that results in a school action plan to meet identified needs
- children agree their classroom rules at the start of each year

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 through Building Learning Power. This encourages independence as well as personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

Our annual parents' questionnaire also reflects our school's ethos of communication.

### **Rule of Law**

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses and sets its own class rules to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.

Pupils 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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- internet safety lessons

- during Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about
- during other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules e.g. in sports lessons.

### **Individual Liberty and Equality of Opportunity for all**

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- choices about what learning challenge or level of activity children will attempt to stretch their learning
- choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities at lunchtime or after school

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our e-safety and PSHCE lessons.

Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged. A strong antibullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed.

Pupils have key roles and responsibilities in school e.g. library monitors, milk monitors and digital leaders.

### **Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs**

Devonshire Park Primary

Our children are imbued with the belief that respect is shown to *everyone*, whatever their differences. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we at Devonshire Park Primary enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- Through Religious Education, PSHCE and other lessons where we might develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures. Children 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 aim to ensure that our curriculum is relevant to our children and involve children in planning their learning and ensure that a wide and culturally diverse and relevant curriculum is enjoyed by our children.

### **Extremism**

Devonshire Park Primary School, and all schools, have a relatively new statutory duty to pay “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” known as the prevent duty. Staff have been provided with this information and below is a guide also available to parents.

Read the government’s [Prevent duty guidance](#) and its [guidance for schools](#).

Adopted January 2021