



## **Heathfield Schools' Partnership** **British Values Policy**

All schools are required 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.

Across the Heathfield Federation these values are taught, reinforced and celebrated in an age appropriate way, through our broad, balanced and enriched curriculum. Collective worship, our structures and systems, our commitment to the importance of pupil voice and leadership and our ethos and values all contribute to the promotion of British values in the schools.

As part of this policy, we actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including ‘extremist’ views.

### **Democracy**

An understanding of democracy is developed across both schools in a variety of ways relevant to the ages of the children. We want the children to appreciate the value of democracy and understand the role that all individuals, including themselves, have within a democratic society.

Pupil leadership is important in both schools. All pupils are encouraged and supported to take on leadership roles within their class and the wider school community. In addition to class monitors pupils take on a wide range of specific responsibilities across the Federation. These include Year 2 ambassadors, Pupil Voice Representatives in Years 3-6, Junior Safety Offices in Year 5 (as part of the Local Authority JSO initiative), House captains in Year 6 and peer mentors from Years 5 and 6 provide daily support for younger children in the Juniors with reading difficulties.

Children experience an electoral system through applying and voting for the Pupil Voice Representatives. Each class elects one pupil to take part in this group who are involved in planning and coordinating volunteering initiatives e.g. litter picking. They are also consulted by subject leaders as part on the on-going monitoring of the school’s curriculum.

Year 5 pupils can put themselves forward to be the school representatives on the borough’s Pupil Parliament. This involves making speeches, hustings and a full election process.

Through stories and collective worship, the children learn about key world figures who have believed in and stood up for democracy. Across the schools pupils write for purpose and learn how to be persuasive and how to structure their point of view.

## **Rule of Law**

The pupils at Heathfield will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws apply to the class, the school, the local community or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to. This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum, and through regular and consistent high expectations demonstrated and modelled by staff and other pupils.

In the Infant School, the children learn and understand the importance of the “Golden Rules” which are pivotal for the management of behaviour for learning within the school.

These are:

- We are gentle
- We are kind and helpful
- We listen
- We are honest
- We work hard
- We look after property

These are built upon in the Junior School. “The Heathfield Way” provides clear expectations of behaviour and is referred to regularly by adults and children to encourage consistently high standards across the school. It is composed of three straplines. These are:

- Learn and help others to learn
- Respect all people and property
- Work hard and do your very best

All children and adults are expected to be polite and courteous to each other. Children are rightly proud of the behaviour in the schools. Rewards include team points, stickers and certificates. The high standard of behaviour demonstrated by the children is regularly commented on by visitors to the schools and members of the general public when they are out on trips.

Through relevant activities which contribute to the children’s social, moral, spiritual and cultural development (SMSC) we aim to support pupils to distinguish between right and wrong and provide pupils with a clear focus on taking responsibility and ownership of the decisions that they make. We regularly consider this in assemblies. Pupils are able to discuss rules and how they relate to criminal and civil law within society. Through this, they deepen understanding of the importance of rules and laws for their own and others protection.

We have good links with the local community and both schools enjoy visits from the Police including Police Community Support Officers, the Fire Brigade, British Transport Police, magistrates and many more. This enables pupils to acquire a broad and general knowledge of, and respect for, public institutions and services in Britain.

## **Individual Liberty**

At Heathfield we strive to create a positive culture where children are encouraged to make choices knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils are encouraged to risk take and to challenge themselves physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually. This happens from Reception, where the children have to make daily decisions about risk as part of their outdoor provision to Year Six where they have opportunities to abseil and rock climb on a residential school journey. Pupils in both schools enjoy a wonderful range of extra-curricular clubs and activities that they are encouraged to choose and enjoy.

Throughout the federation we challenge any stereotypes whether by gender, ethnicity, age or ability and in both schools we engender an “I can do” attitude in the children and staff.

Across both schools there is a strong and consistent anti bullying culture, which is reinforced through assemblies, curriculum, playtime arrangements and expectations. This carries on outside school and we educate both pupils and parents in using the Internet safely and appropriately.

The children thrive in the positive and happy atmosphere in both schools, secure in the knowledge that any bullying, racist or unfair incidents will be followed up.

Through E-safety, within the curriculum and in a focus on SMSC we educate pupils on their rights and personal freedom whilst supporting them to exercise these rights safely. Pupils are encouraged to debate topics and to be able to express opinions. We strive to enable pupils to develop self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Throughout the Federation we believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will foster a value for individual liberty as pupils embark upon their adult lives.

## **Mutual Respect**

Respect for each other and for individual differences is at the heart of the Heathfield vision and ethos. Our Federation has both pupils and adults from a wide range of backgrounds, including many different of ethnic groups and those who speak English as an Additional language. Our pupils and staff work together with absolute respect for each other no matter what differences may exist.

We celebrate and learn about these differences through the curriculum, assemblies and by ensuring that both schools within the Federation are genuinely inclusive and actively seek to engage and interact with all our families.

## **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs and for those who have none**

We are very fortunate in our locality as we are surrounded by diversity, which we celebrate, and respect. We place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children and assemblies are planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a wide range of faiths and cultures. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths and our RE teaching reinforces this. Members of different faiths or religions, including parents, are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. School displays celebrate different religions and celebrations. We offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected. We believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. We strive to demonstrate tolerance and help pupils to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build and be part of a better Britain for the future.

**Completed: May 2018**

**Agreed by Full Governing Body: 15.6.18**

**Review date: May 2020**