



# 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 develop and promote British Values throughout our school and within our curriculum. 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.

Our children are taught to discuss, explore, and challenge a range of values, attitudes, beliefs, rights, and responsibilities in a mutually respectful manner.

## **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;
- 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 discuss class and school rules and class routines, and the rights associated with these; pupils contribute to these discussions and are able to give their points of view.

We have a School Council, whose members are voted for by the pupils. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action; candidates complete an application form and make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret, using voting booths and ballot boxes and the votes are then counted. Made up of one representative from each class in Years 2-6, the school council meet regularly and members represent the views of their class. The School Council also has its own budget and decisions are discussed and made upon how to spend it the most effectively.

An annual interview process takes places for Year 6 children to apply for the position of Head Boy and Head Girl.

Regular opportunities for pupils to vote are provided, for example; voting for the Halloween lunch menu; voting for the class one hundred jewel rewards.

Pupils are taught about parliament through assemblies and workshops from UK Parliament.

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 are 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. On display in each class are the 'Behaviour Tiers', showing clear consequences for failing to follow the rules. Rules are also 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 or the whole school. Children are rewarded not only for achievements 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. The school values are on display in every classroom on a 'recognition board' where children's names are displayed and jewels earned when they follow the 'Devonshire Way'. Rewards are also given in the form of stickers and certificates. Each child also collects Dojo points and the top house scorers receive a special treat at the end of each half term (chosen through the school council).

During our Star of the Week assembly, the school values are always on display and reinforced by the Headteacher.

### **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 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.

Pupils are given the choice of attending a range of after school clubs.

Pupils are empowered through being part of a School Council.

We encourage pupils to talk about their learning, and school life in general through pupil voice meetings with subject leads and SLT.

The Head Boy and Girl contribute to the Trust Pupil Voice meetings, held termly at one of our trust schools.

## **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 rules, values and our Behaviour Policy.

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, 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.

We participate in Anti Bullying week and the whole school 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.

We hold an annual 'Language Day' exploring the different languages spoken within each class.

We use hand gestures to agree/disagree respectfully with the answers of others in class (ABC – Agree, Build on, Challenge).

## **British Value Buttons**

The British Values are on display in each classroom in the form of 'buttons'.