

### **British Values Statement**

*"We want every school to promote the basic British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs"*

#### **Lord Nash – Guidance on Promoting British Values, 2014**

In 2014, the government published guidance on how British values should be promoted in schools. We have adopted this guidance in full with the aim of ensuring that our children become valuable, well-rounded members of society who treat others with respect and who leave school ready for life in modern Britain. This document sets out how we, at the Blue Sky Federation develop and promote British Values throughout our school and within our curriculum.

The British Values identified by the government are:

- The Rule of Law
- Democracy
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs

Through our teaching around British values, we want our children to develop...

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- 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
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination

The vision of our schools reflects these values and children are encouraged to live this vision in their everyday lives along with our four core values of love, courage, friendship and respect.

#### **Mission statement**

Our aim is to unite our schools, building on our shared strengths, and valuing our individuality. We meet all members of our community at their unique starting points, nurturing their whole being with love and care. We are accepting of all and ensure that our provision meets the individual needs of our children and their families. We teach tolerance and respect through all aspects of our curriculum and ensure that children understand the vital importance of these in today's society.

Below are some ideas on how British Values might be woven through our curriculum...

### **Democracy - making decisions together**

As part of our Personal, Social & Health Education programme (PSHE) we place a focus on self-confidence and self-awareness. We believe it is important for children to see their role in the bigger picture of society, encouraging children to know their views count, value each other's opinions or values and talk about their feelings. When possible we demonstrate democracy in action, for example voting on the class story, electing school councillors and participating in mock elections.

### **Rule of law – understanding that rules matter**

We spend time throughout the year teaching children about right and wrong, ensuring that they understand their own and each other's behaviour and its consequences. Through circle times and PSHE sessions, we make sure that children are taught to distinguish right from wrong. At the start of each year, children and staff work together to create a class charter which places emphasis on the rights and responsibilities of everyone in the setting e.g. I have the right to be heard, I have a responsibility to listen to other. We also involve children in the writing of our school expectations which serve as a reminder for children on how they are expected to behave.

### **Individual liberty – freedom for all**

Through our work in all curriculum areas our children are supported to develop a positive sense of themselves. This might involve small group pastoral work or Lego sessions. We provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities. Forest School plays a big part in this, enabling children to take risks and feel real success as they achieve new things. This increased sense of self enables children to believe in their own freedom.

We work hard to provide experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions. Our equality and diversity programme, 'No Outsiders', provides children with opportunities to learn about freedom for all and equality through story-based learning.

### **Mutual respect and tolerance – treat others as you want to be treated**

The culture and ethos in both of schools is one of inclusivity and tolerance. Our four core values of love, courage, friendship and respect place an emphasis on meeting people where they are and accepting their opinions. Through direct teaching in PSHE and RE, as well as through our curriculum as a whole, we ensure that children understand that all views, faiths, cultures and races are valued. Erpingham is a church school and our memory verse, '*Let us love one another for love comes from God*' – 1 John, 4:7, forms a theological basis for mutual respect and tolerance.

We endeavour to give our children real-life experiences which develop their sense of the wider world. This includes inviting in visitors from other cultures, visiting places of worship from a range of religions and celebrating festivals from around the world. We hope that through this teaching children will acquire tolerance as well as an appreciation of, and respect for, their



own and other cultures. They will know about similarities and differences between themselves and others and will be able to make comparisons between different faiths, cultures and traditions. Our equality and diversity programme, '*No Outsiders*', plays a pivotal role in this teaching and ensures that children are taught about a wide range of different family set-ups and cultures. At all times we promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes. This will not be tokenistic but a much more deep-rooted part of our ethos and school culture as well as our curriculum.