

Promoting Fundamental British Values **as part of SMSC in schools**

All maintained schools must meet the requirements set out in section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. Through ensuring pupils' SMSC development, schools can also demonstrate they are actively promoting fundamental British values.

- Meeting requirements for Collective Worship, establishing a strong school ethos supported by effective relationships throughout the school, and providing relevant activities beyond the classroom are all ways of ensuring pupils' SMSC development.
- Pupils must be encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance. This is promoted at Riverside Primary School through our Collective Worship Policy and our syllabus on Religious Education, in addition to PSHCE themes and internal and external enrichment opportunities.
- It is expected that pupils should understand that while people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law. Riverside Primary School's ethos and teaching supports the rule of English civil and criminal law and we do not teach anything that undermines this.

All schools should 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.*

British Values

All schools are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. Publicly funded schools are required to promote community cohesion.

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated in November, 2014 when the DfE reinforced the need "*to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools 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.*"

At Riverside Primary School we work hard to ensure these values are firmly embedded in our school culture, through our school's Vision and Mission Statement, our enriching curriculum and extra-curricular activities, and are reinforced regularly.

We are committed to promoting these fundamental British Values in the following ways:

- **Democracy**

Democracy underpins the values of the school. All children are treated fairly and have an equal right to express their views and be listened to. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil Questionnaires. Members of the School Council are elected democratically by their classmates in a ballot which introduces them to the principle of democratic elections. The School Council meets regularly and organises events for our whole school community, e.g. fundraising for deserving charities. The school is clear in demonstrating how pupils should contribute and co-operate and consider the views and needs of others.

- **The Rule of Law:**

All staff members have high expectations of the children in our school. The importance of laws and rules are consistently reinforced in the classroom, and the playground and other areas such as the dining hall and Library. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws: that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils follow The Good Behaviour Guide and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions. Assemblies and Circle Time discussions in class emphasise recognising right from wrong. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service and annual visits to SafetyWorks and Crucial Crew reinforce the message that we all have a responsibility to follow laws and that there are consequences when laws are broken.

- **Individual Liberty:**

Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices, within a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our extra-curricular and lunchtime clubs, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. Pupils are encouraged to support charities, but have the freedom to choose.

- **Mutual Respect:**

We believe that respect for others is a vital component of moral development. All staff model and promote the behaviours and attitudes that are the foundation of positive relationships. The strong school ethos encourages everyone to consider and support each other and to celebrate the worth and individuality of every member of the school community. We actively support all to develop their own reasoned views about moral and ethical issues. We encourage all pupils to understand that they have rights and responsibilities as citizens within the school and the wider community. Our community involvement, such as harvest giving, enables pupils to show respect and generosity to others outside our school community. Pupils regularly take part in discussions where they are expected to treat the opinions and views of others with respect, even if they differ from their own.

- **Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

Riverside Primary School is situated in an area which is not greatly culturally diverse, therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Assemblies are planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. A dedicated Equality and Diversity Week every year promotes the celebration of diversity and challenges stereotypes. We aim to enhance pupil's understanding of different faiths and beliefs by participating in a range of celebrations throughout the year and our RE and PSHE teaching reinforces this. Children have the opportunity to dress-up in clothes and try different foods from other cultures and we encourage parents/carers to participate and support our multi-cultural events, in particular our International Fortnight every summer. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

At Riverside Primary School, actively promoting these values means we will challenge opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values which complies with our duty to provide SMSC.