

## **Acomb First School British Values Statement**

The DfE has 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.”

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated in Promoting British values (2014). The prevent Duty is outlined in The Prevent Duty 2015. At Acomb First School these values are reinforced regularly.

### **Acomb First School and fundamental British Values**

At Acomb First School we aim to prepare our children for success in modern Britain so are therefore very supportive of the ethos of promoting British Values. We aim to broaden horizons for each and every child and this includes developing the core skills of tolerance, respect, teamwork, resilience and building self-esteem. These are all values and qualities that we feel are relevant in order to play a full and meaningful role in society, and are promoted throughout the school.

At Acomb First School we uphold and teach pupils about the British Values which are defined as:

- democracy
- rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

We teach these values through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PHSE) and Religious Education (RE) as well as planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. Our School is run through embodying respect, democracy and tolerance of all. We take an active approach to promote British Values through our assemblies and whole school systems and structures such as electing and running a successful School Council. We also actively promote the British values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values.

At Acomb First School these values are reinforced regularly by focussing on our guiding principles:

- We welcome challenges.
- We respect others and work together.
- We take responsibility for our actions.
- We take pride in ourselves, our work, our school and our community.
- We celebrate our achievements and the achievements of others.
- We care for our environment.

Values are also reinforced in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

Democracy is an important value at our School. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. The election of members of the School Council is based on pupil votes reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action.

The staff and children work together to promote respect, tolerance and kindness, throughout Acomb First School.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days. Our behaviour expectations are clear and children are encouraged to meet our high expectations at all times through regular dialogue with staff. The School expects good behaviour at all times and this is celebrated both for individuals and groups in day to day school life and assemblies. 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.

### **Individual Liberty**

Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we provide boundaries for our children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and planned curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our eSafety teaching and PHSE lessons. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices e.g. signing up for extra-curricular clubs and choosing the level of challenge in some lessons.

## **Mutual Respect**

As a school we hold values of respect for others at the core of its ethos. The pupils are part of regular discussions and collective worship related to what this means and how it is shown. This enables pupils to contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of our school. It is shared with home through newsletters and website information. Adults throughout the school model demonstrate and promote respect for others as do older children who have suitable, age related, tasks and responsibilities and this is reiterated throughout classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour. Our charity work helps in teaching mutual respect as well as reinforcing our links with the local community.

## **Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

Our core value of Respect ensures tolerance of those who have different faiths and beliefs. Acomb First School enhances pupils' understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education studies; P.S.H.E. work. Beliefs, traditions and customs from around the world are studied, with visitors being invited in to our school to enrich and extend understanding. Through these activities our pupils gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination. We endeavour to enhance pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by provide them with opportunities to experience such diversity. Teaching and discussions involving prejudices and prejudiced-based bullying are included in our curriculum and assemblies. As a School we make the most of opportunities such as sporting events, Olympics and World Cup, and items in the news to study and learn about life and culture in other countries.

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