



# Promoting British Values at Southwick C of E Primary School

The Department for Education state that there is a 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 were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. At Southwick Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

## Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the school. Children are always listened to by adults and 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 encourage children to take ownership of not only their school, but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility, which is demonstrated on a daily basis. Children also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and regular questionnaires. The elections of the School Council members are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action.

## The Rule of Law

The importance of rules and laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. They are referred to often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. Our children 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. Our school has ‘Golden Rules’, which are deeply embedded in our work every day. Each class also discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.

## Individual Liberty

Within school, children are actively encouraged to make choices knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment, and we educate and provide boundaries for our children to make these choices safely. Our children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms - examples of this can be seen in our e-safety and PSHE lessons. Individual liberty has our School Values programme at its foundations - the values help the children and staff to understand what the key features of a healthy positive environment are and enable individual freedoms to be maintained and respected. Children’s achievements are celebrated in assemblies to instil in them a sense of worth and create ambitious pupils who believe in themselves. Children are taught about making ‘good’ choices and have a full understanding that they are the ones that make choices about how they act, whether those choices are well made or not.

## Mutual Respect

Southwick Primary School serves an area which is culturally diverse and we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Tolerance, politeness and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims and ethos. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

## Tolerance of Those With Different Faiths And Beliefs

We enhance children’s understanding of different faiths and beliefs through our PSHE and RE curriculums - pupils are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality, and differences of family situations. Beliefs, traditions and customs are studied in depth, with visitors being invited into school to enrich and extend understanding. We offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected, and these are embedded in many of our Creative Curriculum topics. These topics offer children the chance to reflect on our core values and British values, and through this work our children gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society.