

# MERRIDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## British Values Statement 2021

The Department for Education has introduced a statutory duty for schools to promote British Values more actively from September 2014, and to ensure they are taught in schools. Merridale Primary School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. Merridale Primary School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five key British Values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The school uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways Merridale Primary School seeks to instil British Values.

<b>Democracy</b>
Children, throughout the school have regular opportunities to exercise democratic processes. Children, in each class, vote for their School Council representative each year. They also participate in sharing their opinions and ideas through their school councillor to impact on school decision making and systems e.g. lunch time meals, after school activities, play time resources. Children also have regular opportunities to vote for awards at achievement assembly, e.g. good manners award, pupil choice award at the end of the academic year. Assemblies are used to talk about events in the news, including local decision-making, for example, around new supermarkets/developments as well as local and general elections. Each year each class has a budget to plan and deliver their own enterprise. This involves allocating roles and responsibilities democratically as well as calculating and spending any profit made as a class.
<b>The rule of law</b>
Merridale's golden rules provide the foundations for the schools ethos and expectations for behaviour. Children recognise the importance of following these and also understand that there are consequences for them if they break or do not follow them. It is explained to children why rules are important to keep them safe and secure. Our local police play an active role within our school, enriching the curriculum through assemblies and visits to

support class Discover themes. They emphasise the importance of following rules and laws in everyday life to ensure that people are treated equally and in a way that keeps people safe.

#### Individual liberty

Children are encouraged to express and to develop their own beliefs and opinions and also to feel confident to express and communicate these to others. The school's non-uniform policy provides opportunities for all children to freely express their own identity or cultural or religious beliefs. Children are given regular opportunities to work independently and form their own approaches to learning. Children are empowered by policies and systems in school which give them confidence to express their own ideas. The school has an anti-bullying policy in place which is shared with all stakeholders. Assemblies and the curriculum are used as vehicles to continually reinforce and inform children of the role rules and systems play in protecting them and their own liberty.

#### Mutual respect

One of the school aims states, "To provide role models who promote positive values to prepare children for life in modern Britain." Mutual respect underpins the outstanding behaviour of children within the school. The school's golden rules has one rule which states, "We treat others as we would like to be treated." There are high expectations for the way that all individuals, both staff and children, conduct themselves and interact with each other. Staff are expected to set outstanding models of conduct and behaviour and for children to respond to these accordingly. Where respect for each other does not meet these standards, appropriate action is taken to inform, advise and resolve this. Parent/Carers and the whole school community integrate and interact positively together shows respect and interest in each other's cultural and life experiences.

#### Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

One of the school's aims states, "To celebrate the cultural diversity of the school and local community." The school serves a rich and diverse community with a wide range of faiths and beliefs. The school ensures that all stakeholders recognise, respect and value the beliefs of others. The curriculum provides wide ranging opportunities for children to find out about each other's beliefs and recognise the differences and similarities between them. This is enriched through visits to places of worship from different religions. The school also has regular contributions from different faith leaders in the community to lead whole school assemblies and celebrations.