



## British Values Statement 2017

The Leys Primary and Nursery School actively promote **British Values**, as set out by the Department for Education in 2014 '**Promoting fundamental British values as part of Social Moral Spiritual and Cultural development in schools (SMSC).**' This document describes fundamental British values as **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of others.** These values are integral to our curriculum, alongside our commitment to promoting equality and celebrating diversity outlined in our Equality Scheme 2014-2015. We challenge pupils, staff or parents who express opinions contrary to British values.



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values

At the Leys we aim to role model our school values in everyday life which are: respect and tolerance, equality, friendship, inspiration, courage, determination, and excellence.

### Democracy

We will:

- Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services.
- Teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- Include in the curriculum information on the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain
- Encourage pupils to become involved in decision-making processes and ensure they are listened to in school
- Organise visits to the local council and Parliament



- Hold 'mock elections' so pupils learn how to argue and defend points of view
- Help pupils to express their views
- Teach pupils how public services operate and how they are held to account
- Model how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged.

We are a 'listening school' and we take account of 'pupil voice' throughout the school year as part of our ongoing evaluation of practice. Pupils have experience of the democratic process within the school year. Elections are held at the beginning of the school year for School council, Eco council, and this year pupils' will elect their House Captains for the next academic year. Pupils standing for a House captain's role will have to canvas for support, and communicate to others how they intend to support their house. The elections will be held at the same time of year as General Election. Year 6 attend an annual 'crucial crew' event which teaches pupils public services available to keep themselves safe: they learn about first aid, stranger danger; train track safety; safety, fire safety and the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

## Rule of law

We will:

- Ensure school rules and expectations are clear, fair and well communicated to the school community.
- Help pupils to distinguish right from wrong
- Help pupils to respect the law and the basis on which it is made
- Help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals
- Include visits from the police in the curriculum
- Teach pupils aspects of both civil and criminal law and discuss how this might differ from some religious laws
- Develop restorative justice approaches to resolve conflicts



Pupils are taught the value and reasons for rules in school as well as laws in society that they govern and protect us. They are encouraged to consider that with rights there are also responsibilities. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message. PSHE lessons and assemblies help pupils see the rule of law from a wider perspective. Pupils are encouraged to view issues from different viewpoints, and asked to think about/argue/debate these viewpoints from a young age. Our good to be green system of rewarding positive behaviour is in place from Nursery, so pupils are taught appropriate ways of socialising and behaving from a young age. At the same time there is consistency across the school in the way we approach and support pupils who don't make the right choices.

## Individual liberty

**We will:**

- **Support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence**
- **Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights**
- **Model freedom of speech through pupil participation, while ensuring protection of vulnerable pupils and promoting critical analysis of evidence**
- **Challenge stereotypes**
- **Implement a strong anti-bullying culture**
- **Adopt the UNICEF rights respecting schools agenda**

At the Leys we have a strong emphasis on pupil wellbeing, as a core aim of the school. The Pupil Wellbeing Policy and Anti Bullying Policy are clear about expectations of pupils. Pupils discuss issues which concern them within 'circle time' which is held each week, and have class council meetings periodically to discuss whole school issues. Currently pupils are involved in our 'Dream School project'. Pupils are also taught protective behaviours aims to build self-esteem and an increased confidence and



assertiveness relating to feeling and being safe. It teaches a range of safety skills including the ability to recognise when we are not feeling safe and providing tools to enable individuals to take action and seek help when they need it. Lessons throughout the curriculum, challenge stereotypes and encourage ambition. All members of the school community promote and support a 'zero tolerance' for bullying.

## Respect and tolerance

We will.

- **Promote respect for individual differences**
- **Help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life**
- **Challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour**
- **Organise visits to places of worship**
- **Develop links with faith communities**
- **Develop critical personal thinking skills**
- **Discuss differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations, such as looked-after children or young carers.**

Respect and tolerance are school values that are important to us as a community. We place an equally strong emphasis on equality and celebrating difference. Our Religious Education curriculum involves visits to a range of places of worship and learning about different religions', customs and beliefs. Philosophy is taught to ensure pupils are discussing issues and ideas in more depth to allow for more critical thinking. All members of the community are listened to and valued.