

British Values Policy



Spring 2017

Our Values & British Values Policy

Introduction

The DfE have recently 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
- ✓ Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

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

Democracy

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. It promotes the democratic process, fosters the concept and application of freedom of speech and group action to address needs and concerns. The election of two children from each year group takes place each year and is organised through pupil vote.

Every year, pupil and community views are also sought through a questionnaire on a wide range of matters. We use the outcomes of the survey to make adjustments and improvements for the children.

At Eastway we aim to:

- ✓ Include information in the curriculum information and opportunities to learn about the parliamentary and democratic system in Britain within our Contexts for Learning and as separate lessons.
- ✓ Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, British institutions.
- ✓ Teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process in school and ensure they are listened to.
- ✓ Explain the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain.
- ✓ Develop the children's ability to learn how to argue and defend points of view.
- ✓ Help pupils to express their views in a variety of situations.
- ✓ Enable children to understand how to express their opinion and effect change on the institutions around them.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, including those governing the individual, the class and the whole school, are consistently reinforced throughout the school year. The children understand these laws as rules. Pupils are taught the values and the reasons behind British laws; that they govern and protect us; the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. They also understand that working within the agreed rules brings its own rewards and this is demonstrated in our conscious discipline system and Celebration assembly which is held every Friday afternoon. At the start of each school year, teacher's work with their class to draw up age appropriate class rules that all class members agree and sign up to. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help to reinforce this message.

At Eastway we aim to:

- ✓ Ensure that school rules and expectations are clear and fair
- ✓ Help pupils to distinguish right from wrong
- ✓ Help pupils to understand how and where rules are made and to respect the law
- ✓ Help pupils to understand that living under the rule of the law protects us as individuals
- ✓ Help pupils to understand that there is a difference between religious and criminal law

Individual Liberty

At Eastway everyone is encouraged to play their own unique part and this is celebrated. Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to develop independence and make personal choices, knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering them through their education. This can be seen clearly, for example, in our Forest Schools work or when taking part in Outdoor and Adventurous activities at the Conway Centre.

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 E-safety lessons, Safety weeks, PSHE and SRE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge or working partners, choice of how they record their work or of choice of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, children are encouraged to express their individuality within their school life.

At Eastway we aim to:

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Challenge stereotypes
- ✓ Provide opportunities for all our children to shine
- ✓ Implement a strong anti-bullying culture
- ✓ Follow the UNICEF Rights of the Child (www.unicef.org)

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Respect is one of our core values at Eastway – we value and respect everyone. Through class and whole school activities and discussions, pupils have a good understanding of what respect means and how it is shown.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs is encouraged also through our ethos of respect and through enhancing pupils understanding of their place within a culturally diverse society. Within our RE curriculum we study the background and practices of a range of faiths including Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Jewish faiths.

Discussion in RE and PSHE gives pupils opportunities to consider the reasons for and the consequences of religious, racial, sexual orientation, disability intolerance and prejudice-based bullying