

# British Values Policy

Putnoe Primary School

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## **Statement of intent**

This policy sets out the framework in which Putnoe Primary School will ensure that it actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

These values are officially taught across the curriculum, but particularly in the RE and PSHE curriculum and are further nurtured through the school's ethos and promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding.

## **1. Legal framework**

1.1. This policy takes into account the following legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the:

- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Ofsted (2015) School Inspection Handbook
- DfE (2014) Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information

1.2. This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the school's:

- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behavioural Policy
- PHSE Policy

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

2.1. The headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.

2.2. Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.

2.3. Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Behavioural Policy.

## **3. Aims and objectives**

3.1. Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our pupils have:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence.
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- An acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

## **4. Democracy**

- 4.1. At Putnoe Primary School, pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard through pupil questionnaires and the pupil-elected school council.
- 4.2. Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.
- 4.3. Our work across the arts curriculum supports pupils in gaining an understanding of career choices and strengths the pathway to the next stage of their education.

## **5. The rule of law**

- 5.1. Putnoe Primary School has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect the school, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. All pupils are involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding.
- 5.2. Pupils are taught these values and the reasons behind laws, whether they govern the class, the school or the country, that are essential for their wellbeing and safety. Pupils are allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.
- 5.3. The school organises visits from authorities throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.
- 5.4. The school understands the importance of promoting British values through a comprehensive and unprejudiced curriculum.

## **6. Individual liberty**

- 6.1. At Putnoe Primary School, a safe and supportive environment is fostered, where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.
- 6.2. Pupils are taught about their rights and personal freedoms, and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through teaching on e-safety and PSHE lessons.

## **7. Mutual respect**

- 7.1. Respect forms a core pillar of Putnoe Primary School's ethos. Pupils are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and all members of staff with respect.
- 7.2. This is reinforced through our Behavioural Policy, Charter of Rights and posters throughout the school promoting mutual respect.

## **8. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

- 8.1. Putnoe Primary School acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally-diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity.
- 8.2. Throughout the year, assemblies are held focussing on bullying, with reference to prejudice-based bullying, and discussion is encouraged.
- 8.3. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum.
- 8.4. The school encourages its pupils from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge with their peers to enhance their learning.
- 8.5. Once a year the school holds a Faith and Culture Festival that includes parents carers and pupils.

## **9. Challenging views at odds with British values**

- 9.1. The school openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and pupils, that is at odds with British values.

## **10. Staff training**

- 10.1. At Putnoe Primary School, members of staff, including teaching assistants and all support staff, are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction.
- 10.2. Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the British Values Policy. They contributed valued opinions and suggestions while reviewing the work that we do in school towards promoting British values.

## **11. Policy review**

- 11.1. This policy is kept under regular review by the headteacher and amended as appropriate to reflect any changes to regulations.