

## **Promoting British Values Statement**

The Department for Education states 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”

These values are taught explicitly through:

- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE),
- Religious Education (RE),
- Planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The school takes opportunities to actively promote our values through our assemblies and whole school systems and structures such as electing and running a successful School Council and the development of class ambassadors as part of our Investors in Pupils

We also actively promote our values through ensuring our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values. Actively promoting our values also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental values, including ‘extremist’ views.

At Sycamore Academy we uphold and teach pupils about the British Values which are defined as:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

### **Democracy**

Democracy is an important value at our school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. The elections of members of the School Council are based on pupil votes. The children have worked together and agreed a set of class rules for conduct and behaviour; this is called a ‘Mission Statement’. This statement is displayed in each classroom and is actively used by children and adults to influence others’ behaviour.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws and rules, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days. We have a ‘Warning and Time Out System’ for behaviour that follows the agreed school behaviour code. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules, that they guide and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when rules are broken. Visits from authorities such as the police form part of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

## **Individual Liberty**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment, a planned curriculum and an empowering education. 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 teaching and PSHE lessons. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, e.g. signing up for extra-curricular clubs, choose the level of challenge in some lessons and are becoming increasingly more involved in child-led learning.

## **Mutual Respect**

Respect is one of the core values of our school. This can be seen and felt in our pervading ethos in school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. The core value of respect at Sycamore Academy underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom. Children and adults alike, including visitors are challenged if they are disrespectful in any way.

## **Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity in our local community. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudiced-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE.

June 2017