

# Central Primary School



## Values Policy

## **Our motto: Children are Central**

In this policy, we outline the values of our school and how we fulfil the statutory guidance from the Department for Education (2014) around promoting British values. Please note this policy should be read in conjunction with our Equalities policy.

The DfE have specified 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 and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”*

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values were reiterated in 2014.

At Central Primary School these values are regularly promoted through high quality teaching, a rounded programme of assemblies and a positive behaviour policy which allows pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in Modern Britain.

Our school is made up of a diverse community, which represents a wide range of beliefs, cultures and identities. As a school we want our children to be accepting, open-minded and respectful citizens.

### **Democracy**

We are committed to ensuring our school is a place where everyone’s voice matters and pupil voice is at the heart of our practice. Oracy is a Central part of our curriculum and a core element of this is that everyone has freedom of speech, the right to express their opinion and be heard.

Each year the children decide upon their class rules and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the class rules. Pupil voice surveys are conducted yearly with the outcomes feeding into our whole school priorities.

The way in which we teach Democracy has evolved over the years at Central Primary School. From September 2021, we will reintroduce Central Pupil Councillors and Eco Warriors. The elected members of the councils meet regularly to work towards school improvement actions which they have identified and planned for themselves. Outcomes of these meetings are conveyed to the SLT and Governing Body as well as through the school blog. The pupil committees are coordinated by the Personal Development and Equalities Leader.

Our school educates the children about democracy through visits to the Houses of Parliament, taking part in votes, speaking with local councillors and MPs and through engaging in debates and discussions about topics through our curriculum. For example, the mayor attended a presentation from Year 2 children around ways to develop the local area.

## **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Central Primary. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. The whole school rules were written in conjunction with the children and are prominently displayed around the school. There are referred to by children and staff throughout each day and underpin our whole school values. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from the local magistrate, councillors and Mayor as well as authorities such as the Police and Fire Services help reinforce this message. Such visits are clearly mapped out in the PSHCE coverage overview and are reviewed by class teachers during curriculum planning.

Through PSHCE learning, children become increasingly aware of Laws and Legislations such as the Equality Act (2010) and Human Rights Act (2004).

## **Individual Liberty**

Individual Liberty is defined as “The right to believe, act and express oneself freely.”

We are exceptionally proud to celebrate the progress throughout history towards individual liberty across our curriculum. For example, learning about powerful women who have changed the world to celebrating important dates linked to liberation. For example, the end of the slave trade, Black History Month, International Women’s Day and LGBT+ History Month.

At Central Primary, 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 young pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, for example, whether it is through choice of challenge, how they record their work or by choosing to participate in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities. Through PSHCE lessons all children are taught Protective Behaviours where they learn to take appropriate risk and how to protect themselves in a safe way.

## **Mutual Respect**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around core values such as 'respect' and 'working together', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. The school's vision and aims promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through classroom rules and school expectations, as well as our behaviour policy.

Our children are encouraged to take on a wider role in our community and as a community school we talk about why being a member of the local community is important. We sing regularly at different community events, visit the local blind centre, work with local groups to develop areas within Watford and participate in dance and art events across the town.

## **Acceptance of different Faiths and Beliefs**

Central Primary is a highly diverse school. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations and education about different faiths and cultures, many of which are represented at our school. Religious Education lessons and PSHCE lessons reinforce messages of education about, acceptance of and respect for others.

As children progress through the school they visit places of worship and educational venues which are important to each of the different faith groups. We celebrate major faith events Christmas, Eid, Diwali, Chanukah, Sukkot and Harvest. Where possible we work with local faith leaders to hear about how different religions celebrate. The Humanities and RE leader works with teachers across the school to ensure strong coverage of different faiths and beliefs is achieved fully. They also provide high quality resources to share with classes about important events in different faiths calendars.

Our RE curriculum, encourages our children to explore a wide range of beliefs, providing a safe space to learn and respect a wide range of religious views.

We believe as a school that every member of our community has the right to be represented, respected and accepted.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

- The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented.
- A member of the governing body has a watching brief regarding the implementation of this policy.

- The headteacher is responsible for implementing the policy; for ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support; and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination.
- A senior member of staff has day-to-day responsibility for coordinating implementation of the policy.
- All staff are expected to:
  - 1) Promote the values of our school into their classrooms
  - 2) Promote the British values outlined by the DfE
  - 3) Report any concerns to the Headteacher about any breaches of this policy

## **Equality**

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 we seek to;

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the act
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Our school Values policy therefore aims to be supportive of these three aims and ensures our values adhere to our statutory responsibilities.

## **Monitoring and review**

When monitoring this policy, through its committee work, the governing body will:

- Seek the views of parents, to be sure that they agree with the policy, and support it;
- Consider with the headteacher any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensations;
- Require the headteacher to report to the governors on the way the policy is being implemented.
- The schools Equalities leader monitors the day-to-day implementation of this policy in conjunction with the headship team

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body every two years, or earlier if considered necessary.