



## **British Values**

### **Preparing for Life in Modern Britain**

#### **Preparing for Life in Modern Britain: British Values**

## **Introduction**

At Southglade Primary and Nursery School we take very seriously our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain. We ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of the school. All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts and in particular, our PSHE skills ladder which includes Citizenship, elements of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural lessons and Religious Education. The Early Years Curriculum includes Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Understanding the World, which help children to respect and value all people and provide opportunities to deepen and develop understanding. Children at Southglade embrace these concepts with enthusiasm and demonstrate a good understanding of how to apply this to their own lives.

Our school makes considerable efforts to ensure children have exposure to a wide range of experiences. Sporting events, a range of trips and visitors, links with the curriculum and use of outdoor education are planned to ensure children's experiences are broad, meaningful and varied.

The British Values work in conjunction with our Learning Values support the delivery and teaching of these key areas to ensure children are well-rounded citizens who are prepared for life in modern Britain.

## **What are British Values?**

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. These are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

## **Democracy:**

Democracy is an integral part of school life. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through all members of the school community. Yearly elections of School Councillors and a range of other Ambassador roles across school which put student voice at the heart of learning and school life. We strongly believe that effective student ambassadors help children and young people to have a greater say and understanding over matters that affect their school and wider lives. These groups meet throughout a half term to discuss a range of topics. They then relay the key information to their class groups or represent Southglade at a range of events.

## **The Rule of Law:**

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country are consistently reinforced throughout our school day in Southglade. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Our School Code of Conduct based on RESPECT is displayed in each classroom and throughout school. Staff and pupils agree to follow and carry out our whole school ethos which forms the basis of our learning values. We have contact with the local police who come in to support with various assemblies and activities in school at an age-appropriate level e.g. Mini Police and DAART.

### **Individual Liberty:**

As a Rights Respecting School, we promote and embed the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) across all aspects of school life. Pupils are taught to understand, value, and exercise their rights and personal freedoms in a safe and supportive environment. Through this, they learn how to make informed choices, reflect on the responsibilities that come with individual liberty, and consider the impact of its loss.

We recognise that every child is a unique individual with their own rights, and we are committed to ensuring these rights are respected throughout the school. In promoting individual liberty, we also help pupils understand the importance of rules and laws as frameworks that protect their freedoms and those of others.

Children are encouraged to think about their future aspirations, set goals, and reflect on who they want to become. This empowers them to take ownership of their learning, behaviour, and personal development.

### **Mutual Respect:**

**As a Rights Respecting School,** mutual respect is a core value that underpins all aspects of school life. Children are taught that their actions have an impact not only on their own rights but also on the rights of others. Respect is consistently modelled by all members of our school community—towards children, colleagues, and families—and we set clear expectations for pupils to do the same.

We actively encourage children to show empathy, kindness, and understanding, recognising the importance of treating others as they themselves would wish to be treated. These principles are embedded in our daily interactions and are reinforced through our Behaviour Policy, which clearly outlines the responsibilities of both staff and pupils in upholding a respectful and inclusive environment.

This British Values align closely with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), particularly:

- **Article 12:** The right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them.

- **Article 13:** The right to freedom of expression.
- **Article 14:** The right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.
- **Article 15:** The right to freedom of association.

### **School Ethos**

- To encourage children to believe they can achieve anything and have the confidence to make mistakes.
- To have respect for everyone.
- To make everyone feel valued.

### **Code of Conduct**

**Responsibility**

**Empowerment**

**Safe**

**Perseverance**

**Empathy**

**Collaboration**

**Tolerance**

Our school ethos forms the basis of our Learning Values and PSHE curriculum. All pupils participate in lessons, class discussions, themed assemblies and collective worship to show and understand mutual respect. We teach our children the concept of 'fair play' and the importance of accepting defeat whether this is in a class activity or when playing with friends. We use restorative behaviour strategies to support with understanding how to show respect to others in school including staff and pupils through language and actions.

### **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

We place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with our children in all areas of school life. Assemblies are planned to celebrate different faiths and beliefs with content linked to a variety of faiths and cultures. Our weekly RE lessons are planned based on Nottinghamshire SACRE syllabus. Termly RE celebration days and EAL afternoons give children a wide range of opportunities to experience different cultures, faiths and beliefs. Our PSHE curriculum also further develops our children's thinking and understanding of tolerance and beliefs. We support children who require further understanding of tolerance by having bespoke discussions or bringing in outside providers.

### **Assemblies**

Every Tuesday Deputy Head teachers or the Head teacher will do an assembly which is based on the British Values to support with Preparing for Life in Modern Britain. Every Thursday there is a Southglader of the Week assembly that links to one of our 7 learning values. There is an assembly overview which highlights key questions and information staff need to be exploring with the children. We use Picture News weekly, which relates to a British or worldwide issue and this is used during a Friday assembly.

### **Responsibilities and Monitoring**

Staff should use any opportunity to ensure children are prepared for life in modern Britain and should find ways to interweave it throughout their teaching and curriculum. It is the responsibility of the PSHE lead, to monitor the application and delivery of British Values, which prepare children for life in Modern Britain.

Monitoring includes observing and checking assemblies, reviewing content in sketchbooks, developing displays around school, pupil and staff questionnaires, pupil voice groups, planning scrutiny and book looks focussing on SMSC opportunities within the curriculum.