



## British Values Statement

At James Dixon Primary School we develop and promote British Values throughout our school and within our curriculum. Values are promoted in so much of what we do, not least during our school assemblies, Religious Education, Circle Time and Personal, Social Health Education sessions. The values are integral to our long-standing inclusive ethos which complements British values and always has done.

As well as actively promoting British values, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist or radicalised views.

James Dixon Primary School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. James Dixon Primary School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

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

The five key British Values are:

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

To do this our children will develop;

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- An acceptance that people having different faiths and beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of discriminatory behaviour
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination

James Dixon Primary School uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for pupils. The examples that follow show some of the many ways in which James Dixon Primary School seeks to instil British values.

## Democracy

Democracy is an integral part of what we do here at James Dixon. Each school year starts with the election of Pupil Principals and Vice Pupil Principals through a democratic election process. School Council representatives are elected through the same democratic process. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through their School Council representatives, pupil questionnaires, informal conversations with school staff during the day and through the Leadership Teams 'open door' policy, which allows children to approach adults to spark discussions about issues which concern them or ideas they may have for school improvement.

## The Rule of Law

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country and consistently reinforced throughout the school day here at James Dixon Primary School. From the start of their primary school career 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 rules ensure that every child is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment:

- ★ We will respect each person in our school community
- ★ We will help each other to do our best
- ★ We will treat everything in school carefully
- ★ We will be honest
- ★ We will be kind

Visits from authorities such as the Police and other community services are a regular part of our calendar events and help reinforce this message. As well as Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about or during other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules and ideas.

## Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- choices about which charities our school will support each year
- choices about how they record their learning
- choices around the participation in extracurricular activities

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our e-safety and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) themes. On display throughout our school is our Anti-bullying Charter, developed by the School Council, informing children that they have the right to feel safe and know actions they can take should they feel bullied.

## Mutual Respect & Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

James Dixon Primary School is culturally diverse and we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Mutual respect is at the heart of our school ethos it is one of our five school rules: *We respect each person in our school community*

Children are encouraged to share their own experiences when celebrating their own faith. Activities within school support both children and adults of different or no faith, the children are taught respect and tolerance of these groups and the opinions of the groups are taken into account with all activities. Whilst instances contrary to our values are relatively rare, each is treated seriously in line with our policies and expectations.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to *everyone*, whatever differences we may have, and to *everything*, whether it is a school resource or a religious belief. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an affect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community should treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we at James Dixon Primary School enhance pupils understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- through our excellent Religious Education, SMSC themes and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures – in English through fiction and in Art by considering culture from other parts of the world, for example
- enjoying a depth of study during Themed Weeks, where we celebrate and enjoy learning about the differences in countries and cultures around the world
- Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.