

BRITISH VALUES EDUCATION AT Priory Junior School
A POLICY STATEMENT – Autumn 2015.

In June 2014, the Prime Minister emphasised the important role that British values can play in education. Further, how well a school promotes such values is an aspect of Ofsted's inspection process.

Although in 2014-15 this is something which is developing in its significance for schools, it is not something new at our school. British values are promoted in much of what we do, during school assemblies and acts of worship, Religious Education, SEAL and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) sessions. The values are also integral to our vision and values. Whilst we recognise the need for a 'universal' title, we feel that the word 'British' does not reflect the diversity and ethos at our school. We would much rather them be called the 'Priory Values.'

The Priory values are not unique to Britain. We acknowledge that they differ in no way from the values of the many countries and the cultural backgrounds represented by families at Priory.

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

Our general duty is to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment
- Advance equality of opportunity between those with protected characteristics and those without
- Foster positive relations between people with protected characteristics and those without.

As a school we intend to be proactive through:

- Our whole school ethos
- Reflected in all areas of the curriculum-like a golden thread
- Focus on prevention
- Understand the community we serve.

Below are just a few examples of how we promote our values. The first section is a general overview; the others are specific expectations set out by Ofsted.

Being part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Priory. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year; for example, Harvest Festival during the autumn term and pantomime theatre groups in at Christmas, Chinese New Year etc. We also value and celebrate national events, a recent example being the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One.

Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Two specific examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

Historically: Key moments in British history are studied in the topics and significant historical figures.

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Priory Junior School. Democracy is central to how we operate.

An obvious example is our IIP reps. The election of the reps reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret using ballot boxes etc. Made up of two representatives from each class, the IIPs meet regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. The IIP group has its own budget and is able to effect change within the school. The IIP reps are actively involved in recruitment and in providing teachers with feedback.

Another example of 'pupil voice' is:

- children are asked to respond and reflect on the teaching and learning they receive as well as make suggestions for the IIP reps to consider.
- children apply for jobs in school, providing application forms and references. They take these roles very seriously.

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils. We are working towards becoming an 'Investors in Pupils' school which promotes the pupil voice, and ensures that we embrace all of the children in the running of our school, from the budget through to our charity work.

Parents' opinions are welcomed at Priory through methods such as questionnaires, surveys at parents evenings, working groups for areas such as Behaviour and Anti-Bullying plans, AFA reviews, Values Plan.

Rules and Laws

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses the school rules and class routines, principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Each class produces and signs their behaviour charter.

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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- during Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about
- during other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules
- visits to places such as the Council House or Galleries of Justice

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, we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely. For example:

- choices about what learning challenge or activity
- choices about applying for school based jobs
- choices around the participation in extra-curricular 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 PSHE/SEAL lessons.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Priory School serves a diverse area and we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Celebration, politeness, understanding and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims and ethos.

Our central aim to 'Prepare children for the future' drives us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. This will be particularly necessary in a future where due to technological advances will make the 'world a smaller place.'

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school

community are encouraged to treat each other with respect. This is a real strength of our school.

Specific examples of how we at Priory Junior School enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- through Religious Education, PSHE/SEAL and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures, including visits to places of worship – in English through fiction and in art and music by considering cultures from other parts of the world.
- celebrating cultural differences through assemblies, themed weeks, noticeboards and displays.

Whilst instances contrary to our values are relatively rare, no school can guarantee that there will never be instances which are contrary to our values. Each is treated seriously in line with our policies and expectations. Incidences are logged and shared with the appropriate team at the local authority for monitoring purposes. Where appropriate specific patterns of incidence are looked at, and acted upon. Staff training has taken place on British Values, and on a number of topics linked to equality. We ensure that all staff are trained in other related areas, and that they are proactive in promoting our Priory Values.

All stakeholders have been consulted in the production of this document. It is proposed that we review the policy on an annual basis.

Autumn 2015