



British Values at Deepdale Community Primary School



The Government first set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. The DfE (*Promoting fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools Nov 2014*) have outlined the need for schools to 'promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.'

At Deepdale Community Primary School we believe that we need to prepare our pupils for life in the 21st Century and we take opportunities to promote British Values. Through this we aim to develop responsible, respectful and active citizens who are able to play their part and become involved in public life as adults. Actively promoting British Values also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views. We aim to create a climate within which pupils feel safe and secure and which facilitates the fulfilment of potential. Pupil Voice plays a key part in driving the school forward and making the right choices at different levels.

This is achieved at Deepdale Community Primary School through:

Democracy – an understanding of how citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process.

To our pupils this means: We have a say in what happens in our school and make decisions together.

Democracy is central to how Deepdale Community Primary School operates so it is important that children, parents and staff are given opportunities for their voices to be heard. We embed this in many different ways:

- Taking into consideration the pupils' views - The Junior Leadership elections take place at the beginning of each academic year. The year 6 children who want to be considered as candidates for the Deepdale Junior Leadership Team have to make speeches regarding their suitability to the post. The DJLT is proactive and represents the voice of all pupils. It gives children the opportunity to make their voices heard and feel part of the whole school community.
- The Sustainability Champion elections take place in the juniors each year. Children who want to be considered as candidates for the Sustainability Team make speeches on why they think they should be elected. There is at least one Sustainability Champion in every class and they meet on a regular basis to prioritise, decide and agree upon the next actions/initiatives which will be taken.
- Pupils and staff vote to elect our Head Pupils and Prefects.
- Children have many opportunities for their views to be heard. Throughout the year various Pupil Voice interviews take place to gain children's insight and express views of their learning e.g.: *Subject specific pupil interviews take place each half term*
- During anti-bullying week children have an annual anti-bullying questionnaire with which they are able to put forward their views about behaviour, safety and school rules. All children are actively encouraged to participate in class discussion and in their learning.
- At the beginning of each school year, pupils discuss the importance of rules and why we have them. They contribute towards drawing up the Class Promises which are displayed in each class.

- Parent surveys/questionnaires are conducted regularly throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to identify what the school is doing well in and how we can improve further. We value and take on board all suggestions and aim to address them.
- Each class has monitors to fulfil tasks, these children fulfilling these roles are changed regularly to ensure equal opportunities for all.
- Within the curriculum children are encouraged to regularly hold balanced arguments, discuss issues/dilemmas and hold debates. Examples within the curriculum are: Should we have SATS? Should devices be used in class?
- Links are seen within assemblies on democracy (Picture News). For example during regional and national voting and government updates.
- Within individual classes children discuss areas that need to be developed as a class, which can be achieved by working together. They set these as class targets and decide together the rewards received for achieving them.
- Staff views and opinions are sought on a regular basis regarding a range of topics, decisions and opinions in school.

Rule of Law – An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety

To our pupils this means: We understand that laws are made in Parliament and how they link to our school rules.

Throughout the year, the importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country, are continuously and consistently reinforced by all members of Deepdale Staff. We believe that it is vital that 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. We embed this in many different ways:

- During transition at the start of the year, class promises are produced and agreed with the members of each class. Class targets and individual targets as also discussed throughout the year.
- Class promises are discussed and displayed throughout the year. They are referred to continuously to ensure they are understood and consistently applied so that all pupils are able to learn in a happy, safe, secure environment.
- Throughout the year, children learn about online safety and appropriate behaviour online. In addition to this, awareness is raised during Online Safety week.
- Acceptable User Policy read and agreed by all staff.
- Rules for Safe Practice in PE & sport are shared with children, staff and visitors.
- Playtime and lunchtime behaviour discussed and reinforced by Peer Buddies.
- During each year, the Behaviour and Relationships policy is written and reviewed in consultation with all members of our school community.
- We have high expectations of pupil's behaviour.
- Within classes there are clear systems to reward good behaviour which enables pupils to distinguish between right and wrong.
- Road Safety is a focus within our school community. We are currently developing pupil, parent and local resident awareness to ensure safety for all.
- Safety talk and awareness when swimming, safety talk before school trips (part of the Risk Assessment).
- Sharing of behaviour expectations with supply staff and new members within school.
- Incidental circle times occur when issues arise within classes.

- RE – discussion about the law/role models within the community and religious beliefs, rules for particular faiths.
- Junior Leadership Team
- Sustainability Champions
- Assemblies – Picture News
- Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service who reinforce this message. As well as visits from PCSO – incidents in local community.
- The importance of rules/ laws at all levels is taught explicitly in PSHE sessions.
- Through our PSHE curriculum, children are taught about emotional well-being and how their individual choices can affect those around them. By encouraging children to take responsibility for their own choices, we are promoting the ownership of behaviour and adherence to the rule of law in wider society.
- The pastoral team use Restorative Justice Methods.
- Staff make referrals to the Learning Mentor team for those children who are finding it difficult to achieve the behavioural expectations within our school.

Individual Liberty – suggests the free exercise of rights generally seen as outside Government control

To our pupils this means: We can make some of our own choices in school.

At Deepdale, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views, opinions and beliefs. Providing a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we aim to provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- Through PSHE and regular assemblies pupils are taught how to make safe choices such as water safety, how to stay safe in the sun/during hot weather and how to stay safe online.
- They also take on roles and responsibilities, such as Peer Buddies, Head Pupil, Prefects, monitors, DJLT and Sustainability Champions.
- Children are taught about their rights, and respect for the rights of others in our PSHE curriculum and also through assemblies.
- Within the canteen children are encouraged to make 'healthy' food choices through our salad bar.
- During visits to our school library, children have the choice to choose from a wide range of books
- Children's achievements are celebrated in assemblies to instil in them a sense of worth and create ambitious pupils who believe in themselves.
- Children are taught about making 'good' choices and have a full understanding that they are the ones that make choices about how they act, whether those choices are well made or not.
- In Year 6 children apply for roles that help to make the school function well and choose the way they will contribute to our community.
- Opportunities provided for children to reflect on their behaviour and make effective positive changes. We encourage children to reflect on how their behaviour affects others.
- Children have the opportunity to choose which extra-curricular activities they would like to partake in. For example: singing club and a variety of sport clubs.

Mutual Respect – how our behaviour affects our rights and the rights of others in our school.

To our pupils this means: treat others as you want to be treated.

Our expectation at Deepdale, is that every individual appreciates the core British Values that also guide us towards living harmoniously whilst celebrating our diversity. We promote this in various ways:

- Through our Behaviour and Relationships policy, RE and PSHE education, acceptance and mutual respect are at the forefront. Pupils learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. Everyone around school treats each other with respect, with adults acting as role-models for the pupils.
- Assemblies uphold traditional values of empathy, respect and acceptance. These are also taught within dedicated circle time sessions, RE lessons and in an informal way throughout the school day.
- Children are taught to respect others regardless of their individual differences. We promote an inclusive environment that meets the needs of all pupils, irrespective of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.
- Bullying of any kind is not tolerated. Deepdale Community Primary School is currently working towards achieving the bronze behaviour quality mark award.
- Equality is promoted in every aspect of school and intertwined in all curriculum subjects. All curriculum leads consider and incorporate all aspect of equality in their subjects: race, gender, disability, faith, religion and socio-economic background.
- In 2025 Deepdale Community Primary School achieved the Race Equality Badge and Religion and Belief Equality Badge. As a school, we are now working on achieving the rest of the equality badges to achieve the full Lancashire Equality Mark.
- The charity work that our children participate in is extremely valuable in helping them to develop a respect for others whilst also supporting the development of their role as active citizens in the wider society. For example, the pupils raised funds for the Merciful Giving Charity.
- Some pupils carry out the role of 'Peer Buddy' at lunchtimes where they help to organise activities with other pupils in order to enable them to have enjoyable lunchtimes. This fosters a mutual respect between all parties across a range of ages. Monitors and Prefects carry out their duties in a respectful manner.
- We currently take part in a School Linking Project which brings together two carefully matched schools, from demographically different schools in a thoughtfully planned year long programme. Pupils from different social, ethnic, faith or geographical backgrounds enjoy meeting and learning together. In our school, six classes are involved in this. It enhances our children's religious education and more importantly, develop the core values in our children which we strive to achieve- respect, acceptance, and harmony in diversity.
- Anti-bullying week and Online Safety includes the messages and rules around anti-bullying, cyber bullying and on-line safety rules to help children remain safe and promote mutual respect.
- World Book Day over recent years has been planned around diversity.
- All curriculum subjects promote diversity and respect of individuals with different beliefs. RE & PSHE in particular explicitly teach the children about treating others how they would like to be treated.
- PE Curriculum and engagement in competitive sports help to promote sportsmanship and fair play.
- Our school ethos is one of respect for all and our school motto 'Harmony in Diversity' is often referenced and discussed with children.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and those without faith

To our pupils this means: we enjoy learning about different cultures and faiths from around the world.

Our school motto is 'Harmony in Diversity'. We celebrate how diverse we are as a school community. Our staff, children and families come from many different backgrounds, have different beliefs and have many different faiths. Mutual respect for one another and our differences is at the heart of our school. We pride ourselves in educating our pupils to know and understand that everyone should be treated with respect regardless of any differences we may have. Through our broad curriculum we promote equality of opportunity so that all pupils thrive together, reinforcing that difference is a positive, not a negative.

Below are specific examples of how we at Deepdale enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs and those of no faith:

- Assemblies led by teaching staff focus on stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures.
- We teach a range of world religions as part of the Lancashire and Blackpool Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and our pupils gain a better understanding of the beliefs of others.
- Through the curriculum, our pupils learn about the lives of figures such as Malala, Florence Nightingale and Queen Victoria so they can better understand struggles for equality.
- A wide range of books supporting diversity in our school libraries and classrooms including bilingual texts.
- Our annual art week is a celebration of art from a wide range of cultures.
- Celebration of worldwide sporting events, including; Euros 2024, World Book Day (each year) and the Olympics 2024.
- Celebration of Royal events such as the King's Coronation
- During PSHE sessions, children learn to accept and embrace difference and to understand how individuals feel by exploring emotional literacy. This work crosses all potential barriers of faith and religion.
- Children's RE lessons enable them to develop a growing understanding of different cultures and beliefs. The more children learn about religions, the more likely they are to understand different people's motivations and feelings, thereby enabling them to be more tolerant of those cultures and beliefs that differ from their own.
- Our Single Equalities Policy ensures that people of all religious beliefs, genders, ethnicities, abilities or any other differences are offered the same opportunities to thrive at our school.
- Deepdale Community Primary School has achieved two individual Equality Badges as part of the Lancashire Equality Mark: Race Equality Badge and Religion and Belief Equality Badge. The Lancashire Equality Mark is awarded to schools who have taken measures to embed Equality throughout their practice with the goal of enabling all pupils to thrive in a supportive learning community.

Review:

This policy was written in March 2025 and will be reviewed 2027