



British Values Statement

At Grove Vale Primary School we value the diversity of backgrounds of all pupils, families and wider school community. We have created a curriculum tailored to the needs of our diverse school and community, which take a local and global approach to learning which will enable our pupils to make informed and positive contributions in their life.

The Department for Education states that there is a 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 Department for Education defines British Values as follows:

- Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
- Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Support for equality of opportunity for all
- Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

Our school reflects British values in all that we do. We aim to nurture, encourage and challenge our children on their journey through life so they can grow into knowledgeable, skilled, caring, responsible and tolerant adults who make understand the importance of democracy and make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

At Grove Vale, we actively promote British values in the following ways:

Democracy

* All children are encouraged to debate topics of interest, express their views and make a meaningful contribution to the running of the school on matters that directly involve pupils. Children also have the opportunity to have their voices heard through pupil questionnaires, pupil surveys and by raising issues to the class School Council members.

* The principle of democracy is explored in the selection process of school councillors for each class, where potential candidates make speeches and their peers vote for the most suitable candidates to represent their class.

* Democracy is also studied in our curriculum such as learning about the ancient Greeks, the Magna Carta as well as the struggles of the suffragettes amongst many other topics, these are often shared during assemblies and we sometimes hold special events such as debating competitions or taking time to commemorate significant events such as the VE day or the passing of world leaders/inspirational British people.

Rule of Law

* Our school follows 'Golden Rules', which are integral to our learning and ethos everyday.

* School rules and expectations are clear, fair and regularly promoted.

* Pupils are always helped to distinguish right from wrong, in the classroom, during assemblies and on the playground.

* Pupils are encouraged to respect the law and Grove Vale has enjoyed visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire Service, Ambulance, etc. to help reinforce this message.

* The Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies set out a zero tolerance approach to any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to pupils, staff and parents and carers.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged, and given opportunities to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.

* Pupils are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.

* Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and our pastoral support reinforces the importance of making and learning how to make the right choices.

* Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-safety teaching and Secrets of Success lessons.

* Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged. A strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed. The school also operates a robust system of logging and resolving incidents.

* Pupils have key roles and responsibilities in school e.g. Team captains, Year 5/6 monitors, Playground Buddies, etc.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Respect is one of the core values of our school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone, adults and children alike.

Pupils are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.

* Staff and pupils are expected to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.

* Links and visits are promoted with local faith communities and places of worship. e.g. Pupils visit religious buildings for most of the main religions during their time at Grove Vale. Also, members of different faiths or religions have been invited to school to share their knowledge and enhance learning within assemblies and in class.

* Through the Secrets of Success and RE curriculums pupils are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations.

* Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudiced-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and Secrets of Success.

* We offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected and global dimension work embedded in many of our Creative Curriculum topics, such as the Travel and Holidays. These curriculum topics offer children the chance to reflect on our core values and British values.