

## British Values

In 2014, The Department of Education stated that 'Schools should 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. This can help schools to demonstrate how they are meeting the requirements of section 78 of the Education Act 2002, in their provision of SMSC'.

At Oxford Gardens we actively promote British Values as part of our school ethos. Actively promoting also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

At Oxford Gardens we ensure that British values are embedded in our whole school ethos in a variety of ways. Assemblies are held each half term on each of the specific British values and the coverage of the five different British Values are also mapped out in our 'Jigsaw' PSHE scheme of work. We also believe that the best way to model these values is to reflect them in our whole school ethos:

### Democracy

The concept of democracy is fully integrated within practices at Oxford Gardens. We strongly encourage children to have a voice around worldwide topics and share their views and opinions openly. The teaching of the International Primary Curriculum allows children to discuss and debate moral issues regularly and look at different issues throughout the world. There is a strong focus on citizenship within the PSHE scheme taught at Oxford Gardens. Through the PSHE scheme of work at our school, children from as young as Year 1 are taught about democracy and the rule of law specifically. We are also a Rights Respecting School which focuses on empowering the children to understand about their rights and the rights of others. Each week, the celebration assembly is based around celebrating a different right from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The views of both parents and children within our school community greatly impact on decisions made at our school. The school council is made up of children that have been voted for by their fellow classmates. The Headteacher regularly meets with the school council to discuss the children's views about aspects of the school. These are then feedback to the teachers and staff at staff meetings. This has led to many changes being implemented in the school eg. Changes to lunchtimes, changes to class names, music being played throughout the school. In addition to this, each year the Head boy and girl are voted for by the staff and children, again modelling a democratic process to the children from a young age.

Questionnaires and pupil voice activities are regularly conducted by learning leaders throughout the school to provide feedback about what the children feel about their learning. This then directly impacts on the different learning activities planned for by the teachers. An annual parent questionnaire is also conducted which helps to shape our priorities for the following academic year.

### **The Rule of Law**

Within the school there is a clear behaviour policy and set of values that all members of the school community need to adhere to. The clear consequences that breaking the rules have for children demonstrate the impact that breaking rules have on themselves and others.

Children have regular visits from different people within the community and have been shown to respect different views and beliefs. They also understand how to conduct themselves when on educational visits and we have had lots of positive feedback from different members of the general public about the conduct of the children.

Throughout the PSHE scheme of work, children are taught to understand the need for laws and the consequences of not following these. Children are also taught that the

freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law. This is further embedded through the Rights Respecting initiative.

### **Individual Liberty**

We aim to ensure that all children feel safe to make their own decisions. One of the core values within the school is to be 'responsible'; the children are guided about how to make choices in life based on weighing up the cost of any negative actions that they make against the positive. The implementing of the Rights Respecting initiative has enabled the children to understand their personal freedoms and how to use these rights effectively to ensure they make the best choices. The variety of clubs available and different areas of responsibilities (eg. School Council, Prefects) means that children are given the opportunity to make their own choices and take responsibility for aspects of our school life and community.

### **Mutual Respect**

Through PSHE lessons, assemblies and the visions and values of our school, we aim to teach children to be responsible citizens. This is one of our core values for our children to be 'Confident, responsible, independent, successful and innovative'. We expect all members of the school community to treat each other with respect. As a community, we learn from others and help others learn.

### **Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

We have a diverse population at Oxford Gardens and are extremely proud to celebrate all of the different faiths and beliefs at our school. RE days are held every half term that focus on aspects of a range of world faiths. Children learn about the core beliefs and practices of the different faiths and also have a clear understanding that they must respect others beliefs as well as their own. Each half term there is a class assembly aimed at teaching the other children all about an important aspect or

celebration within another faith. It is an expectation from all members of our school community to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance. Since the Grenfell Tower tragedy in June 2017, there has been an even greater emphasis on respect and tolerance within our school community and this is a strength of the school.