



**Vale of Evesham School**

'a specialist school for cognition and learning - enabling inclusion in the community'

# **Promoting Fundamental British Values at the Vale of Evesham School**

**Date: May 2019**

**Review Date: May 2021**

**Staff responsible : Ruth Barton**

## **Introduction:**

The DfE have recently reinforced the 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 Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated this year in *Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in Schools, DfE November 2014.*

At the Vale of Evesham School these values are reinforced regularly alongside our own.

Our key values are:

- To take pride in your school and community
- To do your BEST.
- To be honest.
- Respect yourself and others.
- To show good manners.
- To care for others.

It is in the context of our key values that this policy should be read.

We actively teach and promote Fundamental British values in the following ways:

## **Democracy:**

We have a student council and Residential Forum which has two representatives from each class; one for school council and Residential Forum and one for ECO Issues. The council meets regularly with Ms Barton and Mr. Robinson (Residential Head of Care) to discuss issues raised in class council meetings and the Residential Forum. The council and Forum is genuinely able to effect change within the school, a recent example has been choosing our new PE Kit.

We also have a questionnaire where the young people are able to forward their views about the school.

Pupils learn about democracy through the PSHE and Citizenship. Within this unit they learn about the role of Parliament, how the voting system works and the role of their local councillor and MP. They also get the opportunity to visit the House of Commons in the Sixth Form.

### **Class and School Goals**

We believe:

- that all children/young people should be treated as individuals
- that all children/young people have the right to equal opportunities
- that there is a vital partnership between parents/carers and the School
- in the empowerment of all
- that the needs of the children/young people are paramount

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind the goals of behaviour for their school and class and the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when they are not followed. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty:**

At the Vale of Evesham School pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education both in the day school and residential provision. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our PSHE and SRE (Sexual Relationship Education).

We aim to have a strong Anti Bullying culture at the Vale of Evesham School and through PSHE, Individual Education Plans and further regular support through departmental assemblies.

Our numerous extra-curricular clubs and day/residential opportunities give our pupils freedom of choice throughout their time at the Vale of Evesham School.

**Mutual Respect:**

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviour have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

**Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

School assemblies are timetabled to specifically focus on key areas regarding British Values, with children across the school learning about the values and their importance in a variety of ways. Assemblies also cover key religious festivals across the year along with themes regarding friendship, tolerance and respect.

**Radicalism**

Through our close school community staff and students are vigilant about monitoring and offering support to rationalise any inappropriate ideas and influences that may compromise behaviours that may lead to indoctrination of an unhealthy kind.