



Statement on Valewood's Promotion of British Values

Statement on the Promotion of British Values

Background and Rationale

Though it has acquired a greater urgency in recent times, the importance of schools promoting British values is not new:

- The 2014 National Curriculum includes the following statements:

Every state funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- *promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society and*
- *prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.*

Teachers should take account of their duties under equal opportunities legislation that covers race, disability, sex, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and gender assessment.

- The 2011 Teachers' Standards state, as part of teachers' personal and professional conduct:

Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- These values support the national Prevent Strategy, put before Parliament in 2011 by the Home Secretary as a response to radicalisation of British citizens.

The Prevent Strategy recognises the importance of schools in counter-terrorism activities.

More recently, concerns about the inappropriate actions of some schools were highlighted in the Birmingham Trojan Horse case, where a number of OFSTED inspections revealed a failure to promote British values adequately in some schools, meaning that young people in them were vulnerable to radical and extremist ideas. Consequently, all schools need a clear statement of British values and how they are promoted through the school's curriculum.

What is meant by "British Values"?

We believe that the following list exemplifies some of the values held dear by British citizens as well as other citizens worldwide:

- Democracy
- Respect of the rule of law
- Appreciation of the rights of other citizens
- Individual liberty
- The promotion of opportunities for all
- Support for those who cannot, by themselves, sustain a dignified life-style
- Religious tolerance and respect for cultural diversity
- Treating others with fairness

- Participation in community life
- The contribution to, as well as the benefit from, cultural and economic resources

Although this list is not exhaustive, we believe it encapsulates the attitudes Valewood Primary School values and seeks to encourage in its whole school community.

How does Valewood Primary School go about promoting these values?

At Valewood Primary School we believe that our own Valewood Values, found on the school's website, make explicit our fundamental belief in treating everyone fairly and with respect.

At Valewood we have a high regard for equality and diversity. These Values are the foundation of all our work with our children.

Each class has the Valewood Values on display and they are also displayed throughout the School. They are referred to daily throughout our work, in all aspects of the curriculum and beyond. They underpin our core values of ensuring equality for all and celebrating diversity both at school and within our wider community.

British values are embodied in the following more specific ways:

- Our School Motto is "Valuing Personal Strengths." All children appreciate that they are all treated as individuals and they understand the importance of these commitments to enable them to be successful and to be rewarded in our School. As part of our commitment to share our Valewood Values, teachers and pupils alike have put together their 'Top 10, Things to Do: The Teachers Will... and The Children Will.... These can also be found on our Website and can be seen in all classrooms around School.
- As the DFE guidance (November 2014) promotes, we plan to include in suitable parts of the curriculum, materials on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how democracy and the law works in Britain.
- All our pupils have Religious Education (RE) lessons. Our RE Curriculum incorporates learning about all the major World religions from Reception through to Y6 where resources and visits are used to help pupils understand a range of faiths.
- All our pupils take an active part in our Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE) lessons from Reception through to Y6.
- All pupils benefit from our outstanding promotion of social, moral, spiritual and cultural education.
- We also encourage wider working partnerships which enable pupils to make links to their learning in subjects like History, RE and PSHCE alongside British Values e.g. The Anne Frank Trust where our Anne Frank Ambassadors represent the School at the local Holocaust Memorial.
- At Valewood we have an Assembly and collective act of worship every day as follows:
 - Monday: Whole School Assembly, led by the Headteacher
 - Tuesday- Wednesday – Thursday: Class Assembly, led by Class Teachers
 - Friday- Whole School, led by the Deputy Headteacher and Class Teachers
 - Friday- Whole School Awards – half termly – led by the Headteacher
- The school's system of organising students into Houses promotes unity across all year groups. Children are introduced into one of four Houses as they start in Reception:
 - **OAK- GREEN**
 - **ELM- YELLOW**
 - **ASH- RED**
 - **WILLOW- BLUE**

- As younger siblings join the School, they enter the same House as their elder sibling.
- At Valewood Primary School, pupil voice is very strong and we actively promote democratic processes. Pupils' sense of democracy is acute. Every year, pupils nominate and vote for representatives for their year group for our active groups, namely:
 - SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM led by Ms Tantouri, the Headteacher
 - RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AMBASSADORS led by Mrs Parr, Deputy Headteacher
 - ECO CHAMPIONS- led by Mrs Salzano
 - WELLBEING WARRIORS- led by Mrs O'Hara
 - FRIENDSHIP PALS & FUNDRAISING TEAM & GARDENING CREW- Mrs Mitchell
 - SPORTS LEADERS- led by Mr Burns
 - FOREST SCHOOLERS- led by Miss Metcalfe
 - COMMUNICATIONS TEAM- led by Miss Eglin
 - ZONES of REGULATION- led by Mrs Wright
 - ARTS LEADERS- led by Miss Ainsworth
 -
- Pupils at Valewood are listened to. They often run clubs, directed by themselves for younger pupils and promote the sense of unity across the whole school community.
- Behaviour and Attitudes at Valewood was judged as 'outstanding' (Ofsted, March 2018). Pupils' behaviour exemplifies tolerance and harmony. Pupils take great responsibility for their behaviour at all times, they show initiative and make efforts to make a difference to the lives of all in school and those in the wider community. This is something that we are particularly proud of at Valewood.
- The school supports local, national and international charities: projects ranging from Local Hospice Charity; Children in Need; NSPCC; fundraising to help endangered animals via WWF to; fundraising to fight Ebola in West Africa to building greater sanitation systems in Afghanistan.

Adopted by the Governing Body