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Dear Parents & Carers,

Equality Act (2010) and British Values Curriculum Scheme – No Outsiders: Everyone Different, Everyone Welcome (2020)

This year, one of our whole school foci is to develop the incorporation of British Values and the Equality Act into our whole school curriculum. At Valewood, we always strive to ensure that our children experience a broad and balanced, culturally rich curriculum and we believe that teaching our children about the importance of diversity in our world is key to achieving this aim. We believe that everybody is welcome in our school and we want to celebrate this by exploring the diverse culture we now live in with our children.

The Equality Act (2010) legally protects people from discrimination in all aspects of wider society. At Valewood, we want to ensure that our children understand the benefits of existing in a world where diversity and differences are recognised and celebrated.

We aim for all of our children to be tolerant to different people from all walks of life and we believe we can achieve this through a rich curriculum, complemented by a high quality scheme of work.

At Valewood, our children are already exposed to topical issues from local, national and worldwide news through our use of the Votes for Schools resources. It is clear to see how our children have become adept at articulating their views and we aim for all children to know that they have a voice.

Through our Rights Respecting Schools award, the children explore the rights of the child in many different ways and it is a pleasure to watch them challenging the ways of society and discussing this with each other. In order to enhance our delivery of a curriculum rich with British Values, we are introducing a new scheme of work, which has our Valewood Values, right at its very core.

There are six areas of focus for each year group (one for each half term from EYFS through to Y6), which make use of high quality, age appropriate picture books for the children to share with one another and as a whole class. The highly recommended scheme covers a wide range of topical issues, such as race, identity, disability, religion, gender and sexual orientation. All sessions within the scheme aim to promote community cohesion and inspire the children to become global citizens in today's modern world.

We aim to begin the implementation of this scheme of work, after half term and I would invite you to find more information about the aims of the scheme within the web address provided below. I have attached a leaflet with examples of the picture books from each year group to give you an example of the literature the children will be using.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for joining us in living out our Valewood Values of understanding one another and I look forward to seeing what our wonderful children produce in their lessons.

If you have any further questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

Best Wishes,
Miss Hannah O'Hara
PSHCE and Mental Health and Wellbeing Subject Lead

