

British Values Statement – Arnold View Primary School

In June 2014, the DfE reinforced the need for “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.”

At Arnold View Primary we actively promote British Values through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural education which permeates through the school’s curriculum and supports the development of the ‘whole child.’ We also teach the British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, which includes real opportunities for exploring these values.

At Arnold View Primary School these values are promoted through high quality teaching, a rounded programme of assemblies and a positive behaviour policy, allowing pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Promoting Democracy and Liberty

At AVPS we empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each ‘voice’ and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty.

We also have an active school council which meet regularly; a voting system is used to select the school council members. Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices at our school, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Through Investors in Pupils children at AVPS are able to set personal targets, which are often not always academically driven and are based on their individual needs.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms. Our children are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety teaching and PSHE lessons.

Through our learning challenge curriculum children are given the opportunity to decide their own learning and choose learning topics and questions which meet their personal interests and needs.

Rule of Law

Pupils are actively involved in setting a school code of conduct and classroom rules, this helps pupils to make decisions and choices that are acceptable to the school community and society at large. We also have a weekly value that classes collaboratively work towards which is celebrated each week in a merit assembly.

Pupils are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. Our staff are committed to providing a consistent and fair environment within the school and beyond. This type of environment enables pupils to feel safe and secure; this in turn, promotes the optimum conditions for learning to take place.

We promote 'Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and Beliefs'

We encourage all pupils to understand that they have rights and responsibilities as citizens within Arnold View Primary school and the wider community. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through our teaching and learning environments. We promote respectful attitudes through the use of positive language which encourages acceptance, expression and diversity of individual views. We also promote a growth mindset across the school.

Weekly RE lessons provide children with opportunities to learn about the major religions and celebrations which take place around the world and within the school community.

We understand the importance of respecting the environment which is addressed through a combination of forest school activities, gardening activities and eco activities and our achievements are acknowledged by our green flag award and our gold award for Arnold in Bloom.

Our whole school and key stage assemblies help all pupils to find out about themselves and others, linking their lives to the communities in which they belong. The themes cover areas such as: friendships, helping others and celebrations from a range of faiths and world events.

We believe that respect for others is a vital component of moral development. We celebrate diversity and promote cultural awareness through learning themes such as Diversity week and through Literacy, Geography and topic themes.

We actively monitor and tackle all forms of bullying and harassment (This includes cyber bullying, prejudice-based bullying related to appearance, SEN, sex, race, religion and belief and disability).

Being part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritage of everyone, alongside this we celebrate being part of Britain. In doing so we celebrate traditions, such as customs, in the course of the year – for example Harvest Festival, Christmas plays and pantomimes during the autumn term, Easter bonnet parades during the Spring and whole school picnics during the summer.

We also value and celebrate national events, annually taking an active role in fund raising for the Royal British Legion and a remembrance service in school.

Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives; two examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

Geographically: Its capital cities and counties, its rivers and mountains. How Great Britain differs from England and the United Kingdom, where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries of the world

Historically: Our main focus in this subject is to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British and local history.