

# **British Values Statement**

## Promoting British Values Statement – January 2017

The DFE have reinforced the need:-

“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British Values of;

- The rule of law
- Democracy
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths & beliefs”

At Southwick Community Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:-

### Democracy OTE

Democracy is embedded within the life of our school.

Children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, Class Assemblies & House Assemblies and Annual Pupil Voice Questionnaires.

Children elect their School Council representatives for their own classes. Our children are part of Young Amplify which is a group of children 7-11 years old across Britain that design and mould Government thinking and also take part in the Children’s Commissary Takeover Day (see website)

Our Children piloted the Governments scheme ‘Poverty Proofing’ which developed a tool kit to be used by schools to reduce the stigma and discrimination that young people face in schools.

Our School Behaviour and Discipline Policy Involves the children agreeing on the principles and the rules within the school and is reviewed in classes at the beginning of the new school year.

### The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be the rules in school or the guidelines to practice laid down in our Behaviour and Discipline policy, are consistently reinforced by everyone during the school day. Children are taught the value and reason behind laws and rules and with this comes an understanding which is reinforced in the follow through of consequences when these rules are broken.

We have a set programme of visits from the Police, the Fire Service and Armed Forces that are built into our curriculum to help reinforce this message.

### Individual Liberty

Within school children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive setting. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for all our children to make choices, through the provision of a safe learning environment and an empowering curriculum.

Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and independence and how to use them safely e.g. E-Safety work in a school and PSHE lessons. Within lessons themselves children are given choices and learning challenges such as, how to record, participate, present and share their work in class or with the whole school.

Children are also given freedom of choice to access numerous extra curriculum clubs and opportunities after school.

### Mutual Respect

Part of our school ethos for everyone, revolves around kindness towards others and respecting others views and opinions at all times in our daily lives. Our Single Equality Scheme outlines the expectations from our school community, linked to the significant characteristics within our society so that our children are very clear that everyone deserves to be treated with the highest respect and there needs to be zero tolerance to 'bullying' of any kind.

### Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing children's understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity through the RE and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) curriculum, visits to different places of worship and visitors from different faith backgrounds.

Assemblies are regularly planned to discuss these issues with the children and include storytelling and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures.

Work through our Single Equality Scheme details the expectations for our whole school community in the tolerance of those from different faiths and beliefs.

Southwick Community Primary School has always made a big effort to ensure all children understand how important our community is. We believe that our children should actively be involved in all aspects of community life.

Over many years we have developed our own Civil Pride partnerships with our local councillors and officers.

Our children take part in a number of annual events that link and make sense of what it is to be a citizen today in Britain and to take part in what is happening in our local community.

These include;

- Visits to local care homes with the school choir.
- Planting bulbs in the local area to improve the environment, and we were the winners of Sunderland in Bloom Civic Award.
- Taking part in our local Remembrance service in Southwick and we always have our own event at school.
- Being involved in the launch of City projects, Grace House, WW1 Memorial,
- Taking part in a charity golf workshop.
- Delivered a Centre Point presentation to council members for Take Over day.
- Working with the Children's Commissioner in London, visiting her office and interviewing staff.

- Being a part of the Young Amplify Group which consists of a group of 711 year old children who collectively look at Government policies and legislations and input into what matters to children directly through the Children's Commissioners work, plans and projects.
- Choosing the furniture and the design for the school library.
- Consulting about Play Parks, were they fit for purpose and were they safe.
- Organising fundraising events for Macmillan, Children in Need and Red Nose Day.
- Taking part in various sporting competitions.
- Decision making and consultation about the school menu.
- Choir singing at the Lighting of the Southwick Christmas tree.
- Singing at Bridges Shopping centre for Children North East.
- Our School Council was Highly Commended in the 2014 and received the Young Achievers Award.
- Our School Council now have the Fair Trade Award.
- Our Children have now developed a school banking system linked to the Bridges Community Bank.
- Taken part in Heart Start programmes.
- Taken part in Walkwise road safety programmes.
- Frequent visits by local Vets to teach pet responsibility.
- Taking part in enterprise schemes for school fetes and community days.

### **Parents.**

- They have been involved in piloting the benefits website for the City and were asked to contribute in it's evaluation.
- Took part in the consultation about Poverty Proofing in school.
- Our Family Art Group regularly contributes to Community Art events in the City.
- Volunteer to support local artists in the creation of our annual Lantern Festival.

- Have created support groups to train and reduce isolation.
- Fundraise for Holiday trips.
- Offer valuable feedback through school questionnaires and through meetings with our Headteacher.

**At Southwick Community Primary School we strive to actively challenge children staff and parents expressing opinions contrary to Fundamental British Values.**