



**The Acorns**

Primary and Nursery School

# **Promoting British Values Policy**

February 2023

## **We are a Rights Respecting School with No Outsiders**

**Article 29: Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, their culture and other cultures.**

**Article 14: Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.**

### Promoting British Values

The Department for Education (DfE) have emphasised the need for all schools 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
- mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The government set out definitions of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. As a Unicef Rights Respecting School, The Acorns strive to ensure that all of our pupils grow and develop, leaving our school as well-informed, active members of our society. Below are each of the core values and how they are promoted in our school.

### Democracy

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Parliament. It promotes the democratic process, freedom of speech and group action to address needs and concerns. Parliament meet at least once every half term to discuss any issues that arise and bring along the views and opinions of their class mates. Each term, pupil views are also found through a questionnaires and conferencing on a wide range of matters including enjoyment of school, quality of learning, standards of teaching and behaviour and matters related to safety. We use the outcomes of the surveys and conferencing to make adjustments and improvements for the children. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard; this is especially encouraged during PSCHE lessons and embedded through our Rights Respecting School and No Outsiders.

### The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, including those governing the individual, the class and the whole school, are consistently reinforced throughout the school year. Pupils are taught the values and the reasons behind British laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. They also understand that working within the agreed rules brings its own rewards and this is demonstrated from Nursery through to Year 6 with our 'You've Been Spotted', Dojo and House point systems. We also feel it is very important for our children to understand the difference between criminal laws and religious laws which is reinforced through RE and PSCHE lessons.

### Individual Liberty

At The Acorns, pupils are actively encouraged to make their own choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Whether it is through choice of challenge or working partners, choice of how they record their work or of choice of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities. Developing an understanding of justice and fairness is crucial and focus weeks such as anti-bullying week reinforce this. We aim to Support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence, challenge stereotypes and implement a strong anti-bullying culture.

### Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Believes

Respect is one of our core values at The Acorns. Through class and whole school activities and discussions, pupils have a good understanding of what respect means and how it is shown. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. Our No Outsiders, school rules and our relationship policy thoroughly reinforce this ethos. Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs is encouraged also through our ethos of respect and through enhancing pupils understanding of their place within a culturally diverse society. Within our RE curriculum we study the background and practices of a range of faiths including Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Jewish faiths. Discussion in RE and PSHE lessons at an age-appropriate level gives pupils opportunities to consider the reasons for and the consequences of religious and racial intolerance and prejudice-based bullying.