British Values Statement – Heronshaw School

What are British Values?

At Heronshaw School, we actively promote the fundamental British Values that underpin life in modern Britain. These values support pupils in becoming responsible, respectful and active citizens who contribute positively to society.

The fundamental British Values are:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

We value our community and celebrate the diversity of modern Britain. We promote a culture of belonging where every child feels valued, safe and included. We encourage children to embody our statement "I really do matter" because it helps them develop confidence, a sense of belonging, and an understanding of their value within our school community. When children believe they matter, they are more likely to make positive choices, respect others, and actively engage in their learning.

This work forms part of our commitment to safeguarding, including our duties under the Prevent strategy to protect pupils from radicalisation. We encourage pupils to think critically, ask questions and respectfully challenge ideas, helping them to develop resilience to misinformation and extremist views.

British Values are explicitly taught through our planned PSHE and RE curriculum and are reinforced across all areas of school life.

Democracy

At Heronshaw School, pupils are given many opportunities to have their voices heard and to understand democratic processes.

Our school values are reviewed annually with the children, and each class co creates a class charter based on shared values. We have an active School Council, elected by pupils. Candidates write to their peers and present their ideas, enabling pupils to experience a democratic voting process. The School Council contributes to decision making and is able to influence change within the school.

Democracy is also practised regularly in classrooms, where pupils vote on a range of issues, from improving the school environment to reflecting on teaching and learning. Pupil voice is central to our monitoring and evaluation processes, and children's opinions are valued and used to inform future planning.

Through PSHE, assemblies and the wider curriculum, pupils explore how democracy works in the wider world, including studying influential figures such as Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks.

The Rule of Law

At Heronshaw School, pupils understand the importance of rules and laws in keeping everyone safe, happy and able to learn.

Our behaviour policy, rewards and sanctions help pupils to understand that rules apply to everyone and that actions have consequences. Pupils are taught to distinguish right from wrong and to take responsibility for their behaviour.

This understanding is reinforced through assemblies, PSHE lessons, and daily classroom practice. We work with external visitors and agencies where appropriate to help pupils understand how laws apply in the wider community.

Individual Liberty

At Heronshaw, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries from where pupils can make informed choices, through a safe environment (both in the real world and through online learning) and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record (for example using an iPad or not or how they present group work), of participation in our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given freedom to make choices.

We actively challenge stereotypes and raise aspirations, ensuring all pupils can see themselves reflected in a wide range of future possibilities.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours influence their own rights and the rights of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect. We work hard to ensure there is time, support and space for children to develop specific social and emotional skills.

Anti-bullying has a high profile within the school with it being addressed through general classroom practice, the PSHE curriculum, assemblies and outside people. Children are also taught about respect and bullying in the online world, through our e-safety lessons. They also know what to do if they see something disrespectful.

Respect and Understanding of Different Faiths and Beliefs

We promote respect, understanding and appreciation of diversity within our school and wider community.

Through our curriculum, particularly RE and PSHE, pupils learn about different faiths, cultures and beliefs. We actively challenge stereotypes and celebrate the richness of different communities.

We ensure pupils understand that respect extends to all people, regardless of:

- Ethnicity
- Faith or belief
- Gender
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Age or any other protected characteristic

(as outlined in the Equality Act 2010 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).

We enrich learning through assemblies, curriculum experiences and opportunities to learn from members of different communities. Major religious festivals are recognised and celebrated.

At Heronshaw School, we actively challenge any views or behaviours that are contrary to our values, including discriminatory or extremist opinions, ensuring our school remains a safe and inclusive environment for all.

Monitoring and Impact

The promotion of British Values is monitored through:

- Pupil voice
- Learning walks and lesson observations
- Curriculum reviews

- Behaviour and safeguarding records

The impact of this work is evident in pupils who:

- Demonstrate respect and tolerance
- Understand their role in society
- Engage positively with others
- Show confidence in expressing their views appropriately

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