

# British Values at Watlington Primary School

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## British Values at Watlington Primary School

Schools are required to provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. As part of this requirement, schools are expected to actively promote fundamental British values.

British Values are defined as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

At Watlington Primary School, we promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our pupils and through this demonstrate our commitment to fostering fundamental British Values.

Meeting requirements for collective worship, establishing a strong school ethos supported by effective relationships throughout the school, and providing relevant activities beyond the classroom are all ways we ensure pupils' SMSC development. Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

It is expected that pupils should understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law. The school's ethos, curriculum and teaching support the rule of English civil and criminal law.

## Vision and Ethos

At Watlington Primary School, our vision is 'Bright Futures'.

*At Watlington Primary School everyone is passionate about learning.*

*We take considered risks and strive to excel.*

*We work together as a team appreciating ourselves, each other and the wider world.*

*We have self-belief and the courage to rise to new challenges.*

*We contribute our very best and take the lead in pursuing the knowledge, skills, understanding and strength of character we each need to flourish- at school and in life.*

Our intention and motivation is to provide a culturally relevant and wide curriculum that matches the needs of the pupils within our community. We ensure that there are always highly positive, memorable experiences and rich opportunities for high quality learning. The staff review the curriculum to make certain it also has a positive impact on all pupils' behaviour and risk taking opportunities including regular, embedded experiences to enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As a school we celebrate the diversity of the wider community and are committed to the principles of inclusion and equality of opportunity.

## Fundamental British Values

### Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Watlington Primary School.

An example is our School Council. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative and pupils vote in secret. Made up of two representatives from each class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the children from across the school. The council is able to direct change within the school.

Other examples of the 'pupil voice' are:

- Children are asked to respond and reflect on the teaching and learning they receive.
- 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. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

Parents' and other stakeholder's opinions are welcomed at Watlington Primary School through methods such as questionnaires and surveys at parents' evenings.

### The Rule of Law

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses the school rules and class routines. We ensure these agreements are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws: that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- visits from authorities, such as the police and fire service
- during Religious Education, when rules or guidelines for particular faiths are thought about
- within other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules

### Individual Liberty

We actively promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment, we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- choices about what learning challenge or activity
- choices about how they record their learning
- choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our Jigsaw PSHE lessons.

## **Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Faiths and Beliefs**

Watlington Primary School is proud to promote and celebrate different backgrounds and beliefs. Tolerance, politeness and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims and ethos.

Our school aims to '*work together as a team appreciating ourselves, each other and the wider world*', driving us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect. Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs are promoted:

- through Religious Education, Jigsaw PSHE and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures
- in English through reading fiction from around the world
- in art and music by considering other cultures
- by celebrating cultural differences through assemblies, themed weeks, events and displays.

## **Extremism**

The school is aware of the need to be vigilant when it comes to extreme attitudes or behaviour of any kind and appropriate actions will be taken accordingly. All staff are 'Prevent' trained and are aware of the need to alert the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body if they have any concerns of this nature. Our overriding aim is to teach children to be resilient to such attitudes. This involves pupils being taught how to ask probing questions and make sound judgements for themselves about what is right and wrong.

## How we promote British Values at Watlington Primary School

Questions	Evidence of how this is promoted at Watlington Primary School
How do we promote the values of democracy in lessons and wider school life?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We vote for members of our school council. All children have a chance to apply and are fairly elected through elections.</li> <li>- We hold debates and encourage children to question things</li> <li>- We promote the pupil voice across the school (e.g. children selecting weekly topics in EYFS / school councils / KWL grids at the start of topics in KS1 and KS2)</li> <li>- When appropriate, we provide children with opportunities for self-differentiation (e.g. chilli challenge) within lessons.</li> <li>- We encourage children to become involved in decision making processes and ensure they are listened to in school.</li> <li>- We help pupils to express their views in a productive way.</li> <li>- All children take an active role in deciding our class rules and reward systems.</li> </ul>
How do we promote the importance of identifying and combating discrimination?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our school anti-bullying policy and behaviour systems challenge use of any discriminatory language from all members of our school community. Intolerance of others is not accepted.</li> <li>- Children have opportunities through Jigsaw PSHÉ to challenge and question others' thinking. Productive debate is encouraged.</li> </ul>
How do we promote individual liberty?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We study a range of world religions and cultures across the school.</li> <li>- We encourage the pupil voice, e.g. choosing topics of interest in EYFS / pupil councils / KWL grids in KS2.</li> <li>- Children are encouraged to share their views about clubs within the school, or set up clubs of their own.</li> <li>- We encourage children to have a positive mindset about their learning and promote challenge across the curriculum, e.g. the 'Achievosaurus' in EYFS.</li> <li>- We learn about key historical events in the UK and understand the impact these events have on our lives today, e.g. WW2.</li> </ul>
How do we promote tolerance between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of their own and other cultures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We celebrate cultures from around the world.</li> <li>- We mark key UK festivals e.g. bonfire night, pancake day, St. George's / St. David's / St. Andrew's day, Christingle.</li> <li>- We celebrate festivals from a range of cultures and religions e.g. Diwali.</li> <li>- We visit places of worship that are important to different faiths e.g. St. Leonard's Church / Neasden Temple.</li> <li>- We read stories and poetry from different cultures as part of our topic and English lessons.</li> <li>- We work alongside families from different faiths in order to ensure that all children are included.</li> <li>- We mark Armistice Day in school with 2 minutes silence and children represent the school at the Remembrance Day service at Watlington war memorial.</li> </ul>
How do we promote mutual respect?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Watlington Primary School vision statement states that <i>'We work together as a team appreciating ourselves, each other and the wider world'</i>.</li> <li>- All children are involved in deciding their class rules.</li> <li>- Staff model manners and appropriate behaviour around the school for the children to replicate.</li> <li>- We encourage children to learn about and raise awareness of charities,</li> </ul>

	<p>including fundraising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All staff are expected to follow the staff handbook which outlines a code of conduct.</li> </ul>
<p>How do we promote the rule of law?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From an early age, pupils are taught about the need for rules in school and in our community.</li> <li>- All children are involved in deciding their class rules and are held to account for their behaviours.</li> <li>- Our behaviour policy focuses on reinforcing positive behaviour..</li> <li>- Assemblies based on our school values, in which we encourage children to reflect on their behaviour and the impact it has on others. We reflect on the importance of rules and responsibilities.</li> <li>- We have routines in place to ensure the children follow set systems, e.g. lining up in order; timetables.</li> </ul>