

# British Values

## British Values: Our School Policy and Ethos

At Richardson Dees Primary School, staff recognise not only the importance of allowing students to flourish academically but of embracing our wider role in preparing them for adult life *beyond* the formal curriculum. Part of our role in that preparation, is ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values to our students.

The government set out its definition of British values in the Prevent Strategy (2011) and considered the key themes to be:

- Democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

At Richardson Dees, these values are reinforced in a pervasive manner and permeate the school community. It is our view that whilst these values are of course British, they are also important to people in many other countries and that young people need to recognise this.

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways in which we seek to embed British values at our school and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

## Democracy

At Richardson Dees, the principle of democracy is consistently reinforced with the democratic process being employed for important decisions within the school community and beyond. For example, we have nominations and elections of students to our Student Council.

Throughout the curriculum, young people have the opportunity to make choices as a group and the importance of respecting these decisions, once they are made, is reinforced.

## The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when addressing behaviour and through school assemblies. Students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Our Pupil Proclamation promotes these key principles which underpin our ethos and culture. Pupils are made aware of the importance of following these rules and ideals in their daily school life. Visits from police, fire safety officers and magistrates are a regular part of our events calendar and further reinforce this message. The Proclamation itself is

celebrated during our weekly Achievers Assembly, is reflected in our school prayer and is at the heart of our Relationship Policy too.

## **Individual Liberty**

Within Richardson Dees, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. It is important that Richardson Dees has an atmosphere where young people can develop their independence and make decisions safely.

As a school, we provide an empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely and without prejudice.

Amongst other things, our wider curriculum addresses E-safety, promotes circle time, celebrates a positive school climate and ethos in our assemblies and offers a wide range of enrichment activities.

## **Mutual Respect**

Richardson Dees promotes respect for others and ensures that staff model this clearly to each other and to students at all times. This is reinforced throughout the school day in classrooms and less formal settings. Students are also expected to demonstrate respect for one another. Where children disagree, we encourage them to maintain respect for each other and broach their differences in a positive and understanding manner. Our Relationship Policy promotes a restorative approach to conflict where the focus is on repairing differences.

## **Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

We prefer the word acceptance – we are accepting of everyone and ask in return that everyone be accepting of us. Richardson Dees works hard to widen our young people's horizons and to help them to understand that there are many people in our country and the wider world who live very differently from them and that this is acceptable and should be viewed positively.

Specifically, we have worked with other schools through our International Schools Award and also foster links with schools in other countries. The RE curriculum also gives pupils information about other faiths and cultures. Visits to places of worship, such as a Sikh temple, for example, have also given our pupils the opportunity to learn about other faiths.

## **Our Commitment to British Values**

This document was originally produced following staff consultation in **April, 2015** and is reviewed regularly (at least once during an academic year).

Should parents feel that Richardson Dees Primary School is not meeting the requirement to promote British values, they should contact the school and ask to speak with the headteacher, Mr W Myers. Tel: 0191 263 8139

**Mr W Myers, September 2018**