



# British Values

## British Values Statement

Our school is committed to actively promoting British values to ensure our pupils leave us fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

The government emphasises that all schools should ensure that they teach pupils about British values. We take every opportunity to promote the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and acceptance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Through the promotion of these values, our school aims to ensure pupils:

- Understand the democratic process and how citizens can have a say in decision making.
- Recognise the advantages of living under the rule of law and how law is essential for a safe society.
- Understand that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary and why it exists.
- Understand the reasons for accountability of institutions and why courts maintain independence.
- Know why freedom of religion protects all faiths, as well as those with no faith.
- Accept that people who hold different religious beliefs should be tolerated and not discriminated against.
- Value the importance of identifying and combatting extremism.

We promote British values both within and beyond the classroom and these values are at the heart of our ethos. Here are just some of the ways our school seeks to embed the teaching of British values.

## 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.

Pupils are made aware of the importance of following rules and ideals in their daily school life. Visits from police, fire safety officers and magistrates are a part of our events calendar and further reinforce this message.

## **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 online safety, 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 Behaviour Policy promotes a restorative approach to conflict where the focus is on repairing differences.

## **Acceptance of Those of With Different Faiths and Beliefs**

We prefer the word acceptance to tolerance – 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.

The RE curriculum gives pupils information about other faiths and cultures. Visits to places of worship across a range of faiths is incorporated into our curriculum.

## **Our Commitment to British Values**

This document 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, March 2022**