

# **Dimple Well Infant School and Nursery**



## **British Values Policy**

Approved by Governors

October 2020

# British Values at Dimple Well Infant School and Nursery

The four fundamental British Values are Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Respect and Tolerance.

At Dimple Well Infant School we are proud to be part of Britain. We show this pride by celebrating traditional customs throughout the year; this includes Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day, Mother's Day, local and national charity events and national sporting events. We teach the children about these fundamental values both discretely and throughout the curriculum. Much of our learning comes from sharing stories or experiences. By allowing the children time to reflect on what they have learnt they can then make decisions on how they can implement these values in life.

As well as learning about the values of Great Britain we also ensure that the children have a better understanding of what Britain is, we do this through our History and Geography curriculum. We learn about;

- Capital cities and countries.
- Our local area and its history.
- How where we live forms part of England, how this is part of Great Britain and how Great Britain fits in to the larger scope of the world.
- We look at key events and people from history and consider what impact they have had on our lives today.

## Democracy

It is important that all of our Dimple Well community feel that they have the right for their voice to be heard. We ensure there are opportunities for this to happen for children, parents and staff throughout the year. This takes many different forms which include having an open door policy, through questionnaires and surveys, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and our School Council.

The election of the School Council members reflects the electoral system of Britain and demonstrates democracy in action. Candidates make presentations to their peers; their peers consider all the candidates and based on their own judgement pupils vote in secret using ballot boxes. The School Council is made up from representatives from each class. The School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. The council has its own budget and is able to genuinely effect change within the school. Historically, the School Council has planned charity fundraisers and raised money for playtime resources.

Other ways we demonstrate democracy are;

- When children are creating their Class Charter (The rules they will follow to stay safe and happy) all children are involved and collectively decide what should and should not form part of this.
- Children are asked their opinions and given opportunities to voice their opinions on the curriculum.
- Voting systems are used for many different situations, for example naming the class elf from the North Pole, which story to read at the end of the day and voting in the Children's Book Awards.
- Pupils are always listened to by adults and this demonstrates how important their voice is. This instils into the children the importance of listening to others' views and opinions.
- We welcome local MP's and the Mayor in to school to celebrate our successes.

## The Rule of Law

It is important that children understand that there are rules and laws that are designed to keep us and others safe. This starts with our class and whole school rules and progresses into the laws that we must follow as members of society. We refer to these rules and laws in our school life every day, such as in assembly and when reflecting upon our behaviour choices.

As part of our transition activities, when progressing from one year to the next, each class creates their own 'Class Charter'. This is a set of principles that are understood and followed by all, ensuring that all children and staff are safe in school.

Through understanding that rules and laws are in place to keep us all safe, children then begin to understand that there are consequences when rules or laws are broken. We reinforce this with the children by;

- Having a behaviour policy in place across school which rewards good choices and imposes sanctions for wrong choices.
- Having visits with people from the community who help us, including Police, Doctors and Nurses and Fire Service.
- Developing our resilience and coping strategies through breathing and mindfulness techniques, helps us take stock before we make a wrong choice.
- Older children are involved in the supervision of younger children at lunch times.

## **Individual Liberty**

Alongside rules and laws, we encourage children to make their own choices and express their own views and opinions of their likes, dislikes and beliefs. We enable children to do this by providing them a safe and welcoming environment. As part of our SEALs programme, we explore ourselves through themes such as 'Good to Be Me' during assemblies and Circle Time activities. These give children the opportunity to explore, compare and talk about their similarities and differences.

Other ways we promote Individual Liberty are;

- Through stories, such as Dogs Don't Do Ballet and The Elmer series, we look at how differences can make us special.
- Asking the children to express choices about what we learn.
- Encouraging children to take part in Extra Curricular activities to broaden their experiences and provide them with opportunities to find a new interest.
- Embrace their uniqueness by using Show and Tell time to share their interests with others.

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 E-Safety lessons.

## **Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs**

The children and staff at Dimple Well Infant School understand that everyone is equal, regardless of differences, both those that we can see and those which we cannot. Our children understand that respect should be shown to all and we achieve this by;

- Using good manners and being respectful to property as well as people.
- Being kind and helpful to everyone.
- Completing fundraising events for new resources in school and to support the local or national community.
- Taking part in activities in a team, which helps us to develop our collaboration skills and our tolerance of others' ideas.
- Learn about differences and similarities of people through our curriculum, such as creating art in different styles, tasting foods that is typical of other countries and exploring music from around the world.
- Celebrate national and international customs to develop our cultural awareness, such as celebrating the Chinese New Year and other religious festivals for example Diwali and Christmas.
- Through our Religious Education, we develop our knowledge of other faiths and beliefs and we use this information to help us to be inclusive to all.