



# **British Values Statement**



## British Values Statement

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| Date Policy was formally adopted | November 2024 |
| Review Date                      | November 2027 |
| Written by                       | Colin Raraty  |
| Chair's Name                     | Steph Green   |

## **We are a Right Respecting School - General Statement**

As a Rights Respecting School, at Rodings Primary School we are committed to upholding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and use these articles to inform the policies and decisions we make. Some of the UNCRC articles which inform this policy are:

**Article 28:** Right to education - Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights.

**Article 29:** Goals of Education - Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

**Article 31:** Leisure, play and culture - Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

**Article 3:** Best interests of the child - The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

**Article 12:** Respect the Views of the Child – Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.

**Article 2:** Non-Discrimination – The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

## **Teaching and Learning Policy**

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**Article 3:** Best interests of the child - The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

**Article 12:** Respect the Views of the Child – Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.

**Article 13:** Freedom of expression - Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

**Article 17:** Access to information from the media - Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

# **Promoting British Values at Rodings**

The Department of Education have reinforced the need:

***“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”***

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. At Rodings these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

## **Democracy:**

Democracy is alive within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Parliament and children's questionnaires. The elections of House Captains and School Parliamentarians are all solely voted for by children in the school. The children also vote for which charity they want to support each year. Children can also nominate their peers for 'Good Work' which are celebrated during Celebration Assembly. Children also make suggestions about how 'Marble Treats' time should be spent.

## **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. 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. This is done through PSHE lessons but also through other areas of the curriculum. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

## **Individual Liberty:**

Within school, 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 for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and enriched education for example Forest School. 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 On-line Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge (children selecting their own differentiation), or how they record, or participation in our variety of extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. Through our residential visits the children develop an understanding of independence and being their own person.

## **Mutual Respect:**

The school slogan states 'Learning together, caring for each other' and to be able to learn and care the children must respect others. Respect is also one of the five Core Values in school. Through assemblies the children discuss issues around respect, what this means and looks like and how it is shown. Adults demonstrate respect to the children and in turn the children show respect back. Our Special Friends link children of different ages together and this further develops an understanding of mutual respect. Behaviour on educational visits demonstrates that the children have an understanding that positive behaviour towards others shows respect.

**Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions linked to understanding prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Links to languages spoken by our EAL pupils are also made. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Enrichment activities support curriculum areas such as Indian dance workshops and visits to religious places of worship.

**At Rodings we also promote and celebrate diversity:**

In addition to the above British Values, there should be a common thread running through them all that celebrates and develops a greater understanding of the diversity that exists within the United Kingdom, whether this be gender, race, ethnicity or sexuality. Equality will be demonstrated through these values and the curriculum the children at Rodings are exposed to.