

## **PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES AT DALE HOUSE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL**

The Department for Education states that there is a 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 and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. At Dale House School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

### **Democracy**

Democracy is embedded at the school. 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. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council, class discussions and regular questionnaires. The elections of the School Council members are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Dale House School has a set of whole school and playground rules. Each class also discusses and sets its own rules that 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. Our pupils 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. The school is consistent in the way it addresses poor behaviour choices and rewards good behaviour choices.

### **Individual Liberty**

Within Dale House, 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 our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms. They are advised how to exercise these safely and responsibly without infringing the rights of others. Examples of this can clearly be seen in our e-safety and PSHCE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how they record, or of participation in our numerous extra-curricular activities, our pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

### **Mutual Respect**

Respect is one of the core values of Dale House School, underpinning our harmonious community. Our pupils know they are valued as individuals regardless of race, religion or gender and that respect is an expectation of all school community members. For example, in the playground the pupils are encouraged to talk through their problems and differences with the peer mediators. At Dale House School we focus on similarities between one another, as well as exploring and celebrating our differences.

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

Our core value of respect ensures tolerance and a valuing of those who have different faiths and beliefs. Dale House School enhances our pupil's understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education, PSHCE, off site visits, visitors to school, themed curriculum weeks and school events. Assemblies, drama and cross-curricular work also enables pupils to focus on different cultures in a positive manner. We are further developing our use of the school's pupils and the wider school community to explore and develop all pupils understanding of other cultures and belief systems.

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