

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.”*

Our Government believes that, “British society is grounded on fundamental values and principles, which all those living in the UK should respect and support. These values are reflected in the responsibilities, rights and privileges of being a British citizen or permanent resident of the United Kingdom. They are based on history and traditions and are protected by law, customs and expectations. There is no place in British society for extremism or intolerance.”

The values we support are not unique to Britain and are shared by many people in the world, represented by the diverse families at Dale House School.

We support the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, and these are embedded within our curriculum. We also plan and provide effectively in order to develop pupils’ Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development standards. We plan assemblies and lessons, particularly in PSHE/Philosophy and RE, to teach the children about our values, respecting similarities and differences, tackling stereotypes, and understanding why some people discriminate. We aim to empower children to have a voice and to stand up against discrimination, valuing equality, tolerance and mutual respect. The topics and lessons in the school’s curriculum are designed carefully and planned by teachers to provide a rich learning experience that will have a positive impact on pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Whilst focusing on all children developing good skills in English, Maths, and all other subjects, we ensure they experience extra-curricular clubs such as music, sports, the arts and outdoor learning. Visits are planned linking with the class topic to provide children with further understanding of the world they live in. We also link with other schools when we take part in singing, science, and sporting events for example. Competitions provide the opportunity for children to meet other children from different schools whilst experiencing the process of decision making and understanding rules and fairness.

As well as promoting British Values, we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents who express opinions contrary to Fundamental British Values, including extremist views and principles. All staff have received Prevent training from the local authority lead.

The Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2017. 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. In Drama, History, Geography and RE lessons and Assemblies, the word democracy is discussed and children study about countries and whether or not they are democracies. If there are local and national elections, children are encouraged to take an interest and know what is going on in the country as a whole.

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. At Dale House School we are clear about what is right and wrong, and expect our pupils to support rules, laws, etc.

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 PSHE 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 in every day school life.

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

Dale House School is a multi-faith community. This enriches the lives of children and staff at the school. 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, PSHE, 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.

Extremism

The school is aware of the need to be vigilant when it comes to extreme attitudes or behaviour of any kind and appropriate actions will be taken accordingly. All staff are fully trained by the local authority Prevent lead. In discussion work and Drama workshops we involve pupils in year 5 and 6 to develop their understanding of radicalisation. Our overriding aim is to teach children to be resilient to such attitudes. This involves pupils being taught how to ask probing questions and make sound judgements for themselves about what is right and wrong.

Further links:

Departmental advice on promoting basic important British values as part of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-through-smsc>

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf

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