



New City Primary School

British Values Statement

September 2023

Policy Creation and Review

Author(s)	P Radford
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Introduction

In 2014, the Department for Education 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." As a diverse school, we recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We follow equal opportunities guidance to safeguard against discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We are dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal curriculum and ensure that we promote and reinforce British values to all our students. This helps to support the children's social, spiritual, emotional and cultural development (SMSC).

Our curriculum has running through it the British values of

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty,
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

We teach these across our whole curriculum, not solely through our PSHE lessons or special assemblies. More importantly, we consistently model these values in our behaviour and attitudes to each other, adults and children alike.

The British values, as defined in the government's 2011 Prevent strategy, also underpin the 5C's of New City Primary:

- Care
- Co-operation
- Courtesy
- Commitment
- Consideration

We believe that these values are the fundamental building blocks for our children to grow and develop as responsible, respectful and independent British citizens. Children are educated in the principles of British values from the EYFS onwards, and develop an appreciation for modern British society through New City's enriching curriculum, assemblies, visits, trips and extra-curricular activities. This prepares pupils with the cultural capital needed to contribute to and thrive within our society.

Promoting British values at New City Primary School:

We value the ethnic and diverse backgrounds of all our pupils and families and undertake to celebrate and explore these. At the same time, we actively value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate national traditions and customs over the course of the year so that there is an annual Harvest collection to support the local community during the autumn term and participation in a show at Christmas and Easter. We also value and observe national events, for example holding a party, show and assembly for the royal wedding.

Further to this, children learn about being part of Britain from different areas of our curriculum:

In Geography, children learn more about where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world. They also find out more about different parts of Britain, comparing and contrasting the towns, cities and villages. They also learn the difference between England, Britain and the United Kingdom.

In History, children investigate key periods in British history, learning how modern Britain has evolved as a result of specific events and individuals.

In PSHE children consider the multiplicity of British cultures, and explore what being British means to different individuals from different cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds. They are encouraged to consider how they personally interpret being British as fitting into their own identity.

Democracy:

At New City Primary, the principle of democracy is consistently reinforced through the curriculum and beyond. Pupils have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We value the voice of our pupils and promote democratic processes such as regular 'pupil voice' sessions led by subject leaders and are used for quality assurance and curriculum design. 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 regularly approach the headteacher to ask to lead whole-school assemblies on issues they are passionate about, and this attitude is encouraged. Furthermore, we encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

'New City News' is a termly pupil produced newspaper which provides the opportunity for pupils to seek out and share the views of their peers and provides a platform for their ideas and opinions about the school to be shared with the wider community.

We have an active School Council who meet regularly to discuss issues in the school, and recently were involved in the design of the new dining hall. School council members are elected by their peers at the beginning of each year. The formation of the school council and the active participation of our pupils will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.

The Rule of Law:

All staff members have high expectations of the children in our school. The importance of laws and rules are consistently reinforced in the classroom and beyond. All pupils follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used. Children also learn about and follow rules in sport/games as part of our PE lessons. In PSHE, pupils are taught to understand the need for rules and law, the associated responsibilities and the consequences for when laws are broken. In KS2, children consider how bills become laws and how unjust laws around the world can and have been challenged. Assemblies and discussions in class focus on recognising right from wrong and visits from the Police and Fire Service help to reinforce these messages. There is an open dialogue between pupils and teachers, from Nursery to Year 6, which encourages the comfortable discussion of moral issues which enables children to develop their understanding of

the rules of the law when relevant. We deal openly and responsibly with any events in the news and put them into perspective, according to age of children.

Individual Liberty

As a whole school we have a strong emphasis on individual rights and responsibilities including respect and valuing differences in the way people choose to live in modern British society. We strive to make children aware to the different choices available to them in modern British society, and to respect the choices made by others. New City Primary is a Stonewall Champion School. We ensure that any prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour is challenged and recorded, with students made aware of the seriousness of such incidents. We support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely and responsibly, for example through our e-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through choice of learning challenge or of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Our school serves an area which is culturally diverse; we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Tolerance, politeness and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims and ethos, as reflected in the 5Cs. We seek to remind pupils that, for our school to be a safe and happy place, we must live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. Our children know and understand that respect must be shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect. Teaching in RE enhances our children's understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs, including those with no religious beliefs, and visits to various places of worship are used to supplement this education. We also hold celebration assemblies for festivals such as Eid, Christmas, Diwali and Guru Nanak, where children often lead the assembly and share their own beliefs with the rest of the school. The school has a high-profile 'Language of the Term', displayed in every class room, linking to languages spoken by our EAL pupils.

Our school acknowledges and celebrates that some people differ in their sexual orientation and gender identity. We promote awareness, tolerance and respect of all lifestyles in modern British society, and provide a safe, non-judgemental environment where children are confident to ask questions and access support. New City is a Stonewall champion school, and we also run a Rainbow Ambassadors programme with Y5 and 6 pupils, who are trained by the Diana Trust to make the school a more tolerant and inclusive place for all. Any incidents of racial or HBT bullying are not tolerated. They are challenged and reported in line with school policies.

Moral Development

Regular activities such as Reflection Time and daily assemblies allow and encourage our children to discuss British values and understand how these are relevant to them.

The children are supported in their moral development by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong
- readily apply this understanding in their own lives
- respect the civil and criminal law of England
- understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- investigate and offer reasoned views about moral and ethical issues
- Understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues

Conclusion

At New City Primary School, we believe that, through promoting British values, our children will become responsible citizens for the future who show mutual respect and tolerance of others, value their own liberty and understand the rules of law and democracy whilst demonstrating care and compassion for all.

This statement is monitored by SLT through:

- Planning
- Assemblies
- Book monitoring
- Teaching and learning
- Displays
- Curriculum overviews
- Website