



## Bentham CP School

### British Values and Tackling Radicalisation

The Department of Education have recently 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’. These values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister. At Bentham CP School, these values are taught and reinforced regularly.

Below you will find the values that Bentham CP School and the Government agree promote ‘Britishness.

#### Democracy

Children are actively encouraged to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly. Our active **school council** does this. The school council representatives (2 per class from Year 1 to Year 6) meet regularly to discuss whole school issues and represent the views of their class. Every child also contributes their ideas to the composition of their own **class rules** every year. This sets ground rules for classroom conduct and establishes the standards of behaviour children can expect from each other over the year ahead. All children also complete an annual **questionnaire** which provides them with the opportunity to share their views of their time in school and suggest ways in which the school could be improved further. Governors also talk regularly to children during **‘pupil conference’** sessions to establish their views as a way of ensuring that school self-evaluation is robust and accurate, and therefore effective in moving the school forward. Children in Year 5 also elect, in the style of a parliamentary election, the **Head Boy and Girl** in Summer Term, ready for those elected to take up their role in Year 6.

#### 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. These inform how we deal with misconduct. School ‘laws’ are taught and promoted in school assemblies. Children 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. Our **school rules**, which are displayed all around school, are constantly referred to and consistently upheld. **Visits** from authorities, such as the Police and Fire Service, help reinforce this message. In **RE lessons**, the difference between religious law and the law of the country are discussed.

## **Individual Liberty**

Within school, children are actively encouraged to make decisions and choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young children to take risks and make choices safely. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our **E-Safety** and **PSHCE** lessons. Whether it be through choice of **learning challenge**, how they record their learning, participation in one of our **extra-curricular clubs** and opportunities, children are given the freedom to make choices and decisions.

## **Mutual Respect**

As our **school motto**, "Building our future, step by step" and our **school values** "Achieve, Respect, Global, Heritage", indicates, mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

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

Bentham CP School is situated in an area which is not very culturally diverse, therefore it is important we explore diversity with the children, so they are more than just tolerate people who are different to themselves, but are respectful. **Assemblies** are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of beliefs, countries, faiths and cultures beyond our children's experiences. Our **RE** and **PSHCE** teaching reinforces this.

**We will actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including those expressing extremist and radical views.**

## **PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM**

**Radicalisation** is defined as: *"The act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind."*

**Extremism** is defined as: *"The holding of extreme political or religious views."*

The Governing Body of Bentham CP School has a **zero tolerance** approach to extremist behaviour for all school community members. We rely on our strong values and ethos to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our children protects them from exposure to negative influences. Bentham CP School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including

**democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

- Children are encouraged to adopt our motto “Building our future, step by step” and remember our school values “Achieve, Respect, Global and Heritage”. This complements the key “British Values” of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.
- Children are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through the SEAL (Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning) assemblies and through the elected School Council members
- Children are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet.
- Children participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their background.
- Children’s wellbeing, confidence and resilience are promoted through our planned curriculum and extra-curricular learning opportunities.
- Children are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.

### **THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM**

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The RE (Religious Education), PSHCE (Personal, Social and Health, Citizenship Education) and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of our school. Children learn about major faiths and visit places of worship wherever possible. They are also taught about how to stay safe when using the internet.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Bentham CP School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation ‘could not happen here’ and to refer any concerns through the Child Protection/ Safeguarding Designated Person.

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### **Results of the Parent Questionnaire about Life in Modern Britain**

We asked you to tell us what values you think are important for your children to learn, to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We had over 30 responses which revealed some overwhelmingly common themes, which we have collated below, listed in order of importance as viewed by the parents who returned the questionnaire.

1. Respect and compassion for diversity (other people and cultures); an awareness of why people have different beliefs/lifestyles/capabilities
2. Financial responsibility and awareness of the value of money
3. Family and traditional values
4. Having a good work ethic
5. To have a sense of community spirit and environmental awareness

6. Manners and courtesy
7. Importance of building good relationships and friendships; kindness and selflessness
8. To be proud of their country and learn the national anthem

We agree that these are all important values that our children should be taught, at school and at home. In addition other areas were highlighted by parents:

- ✓ The importance of democracy and the rule of law to ensure children have an awareness of politics, freedom of speech, government and constitution.
- ✓ Understanding Britain's context in relation to the rest of the world
- ✓ Comparing our rural locality to that of cities such as Birmingham, Manchester and London
- ✓ Appreciating the sacrifices our elders made in both World Wars

These values for Life in Modern Britain fit perfectly with our school curriculum e.g. in Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSHCE), Religious Education and our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC). We will also endeavour to make links to these values whenever possible, in our everyday interactions with the children. Our extra-curricular clubs and curriculum enhancement activities provide further opportunities for the children learn about these values.