

# ROCKMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL

## British Values Statement

At Rockmount Primary School we value the rich diversity of all pupils, families and the wider school community. We are committed to serving our community and recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We understand the vital role we play in promoting these values and in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

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 **Department for Education** defines British values as follows:

- Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
- Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Support for equality of opportunity for all
- Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

Rockmount Primary School reflects British values in all that we do. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. Wherever possible, we take a global approach to learning by introducing themes from the perspective of other people in other countries.

### General overview

We have a thematic approach to Assemblies and Circle Times over the year to cover key aspects of wellbeing, safeguarding and British values. This upholds the traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance which are also taught within PSHE and RE lessons as well as on an informal nature throughout the school year. We strive to ensure our pupils understand their place in a culturally diverse society and provide opportunities throughout the school year for them to experience such diversity.

Through our provision we:

- Enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely
- Enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures
- Encourage respect for other people

- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England
- Promote an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- Encourage an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety
- Teach an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- Encourage acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- Teach an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination

## **DEMOCRACY**

It is important to us at Rockmount that we explore and teach pupils:

- Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
- To understand and respect the democratic process
- To understand how they can influence decision making through a democratic process
- To understand how to argue and defend a point of view
- To understand the importance of team work

We have introduced a wide range of Pupil Leadership Groups to encourage representation and an active pupil voice. (Year 6 Leaders, School Council, Eco-warriors, Digital Leaders, Peer Mediators, Wellbeing Ambassadors, PE and Sports Leaders). All children are encouraged to debate topics of interest, express their views and make a meaningful contribution to the running of the school on matters that directly involve pupils. Displays seek the views of pupils throughout the school and they also have the opportunity to have their voices heard through pupil questionnaires and pupil surveys.

The principle of democracy is explored in the curriculum as well as during assemblies and special days.

## **RULE OF LAW**

It is important to us at Rockmount that we explore and teach pupils:

- To appreciate that living under the rule of law protects us and is essential for our wellbeing and safety.

The Rockmount Rules are:

1. Be kind, helpful and truthful
2. Listen to others
3. Do your best
4. Look after property
5. Be polite

Each of these rules is further explained in the school Code of Conduct (*see appendix 2 Behaviour Policy*). Children need to be taught and to learn how to behave appropriately. They need to know that mistakes can be made and learned from. Our success is measured not by the absence of problems but by the way in which we deal with them. The rules and expectations are clear, fair and regularly promoted.

Pupils are always helped to distinguish right from wrong, in the classroom, during assemblies and on the playground. Pupils are regularly reminded about their 'Rights and Responsibilities' and about how these are linked.

Pupils are encouraged to respect the law and are taught the value and reasons behind laws; that they govern and protect us; the responsibilities that they hold and the consequences when laws are broken. We enjoy visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire Service, Ambulance, TFL etc. as regular parts of our calendar which help to reinforce this message.

## **INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY**

It is important to us at Rockmount that we explore and teach pupils:

- To understand that the freedom to choose is protected in law

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged, and given the freedom to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. For example, choices about which charities our school will be supporting each year, choices about how they record their learning or choices around the participation in extracurricular activities.

Pupils are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. They are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and our pastoral support reinforces the importance of making the right choices.

Pupils have key roles and responsibilities in their classrooms where every child has an allocated role throughout the year and across the school e.g. Year 6 Leaders, Peer Mediators etc. They are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged. A strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed.

## **MUTUAL RESPECT AND TOLERANCE OF THOSE WITH DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS**

It is important to us at Rockmount that we explore and teach pupils:

- To understand that while people may hold different views, we should show respect towards them
- To accept that others have different faiths or beliefs (or none) and these should be accepted and tolerated

We are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Mutual respect is at the heart of our school ethos. Our pupils know and understand that they are expected to demonstrate respect to everyone, adults and children alike. They are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life. Staff and pupils are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.

We offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected and global dimension work is embedded. Through the PSHE and RE curriculums, pupils are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations. Links and visits are promoted with local faith communities and places of worship e.g. members of different faiths or religions are invited to school to share their knowledge and enhance learning within assemblies and in class.