

# **WIXAMS TREE**

# **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

  

# **BRITISH VALUES**

# **POLICY**

<b>Status:</b> Statutory	<b>Member of Staff Responsible:</b> Headteacher	<b>Implementation Date:</b> 1 September 2017
<b>Issue No:</b> 1C	<b>Approved by:</b> BCAT Board: 6 June 2019	<b>Next Review Date:</b> March 2022

## **Ethos**

At BCAT Academies we ensure that through our vision, values, relationships and teaching promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles.

The Governors also ensure that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively through Academy policy and practice and that there are safeguarding policies in place to safeguard and promote pupils' welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. At each BCAT Academy everyone has the right to learn and work in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

## **British Values**

Our government believes that, 'British society is founded 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 UK. 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 Wixams Tree. We support the values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs and these are embedded within our curriculum. These values are found in our own school values identified by our academy trust as respect, confidence, ambition, creativity, determination and enthusiasm. Our 'Wixams Tree school rules also support a school, which is kind and caring to one another.

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 and Maths and all subjects, we ensure they experience extra-curricular clubs such as music, a variety of 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 to take part in singing and sporting events. 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 expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views and principles. All staff have received Prevent Training from the Local Authority lead.

## **Being part of Britain**

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Wixams Tree. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year; for example, Patron Saints Days and celebrations at Christmas. We also value and commemorate national events such as Remembrance Day.

Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Two specific examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

Geographically: Our rivers, coasts and seaside holiday topics ensure that children have a better understanding of what Britain is, learning more about:

- its coasts, rivers and mountains
- where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world

Historically: Key moments in British history are studied in the topics such as "London", and "Britain Since 1930s". We also take pride in studying our local area.

## **Democracy**

Democracy is embedded in the school. Pupils are 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. 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. The democratically elected School Council provides a more formal platform for class representatives to raise issues and suggest fundraising ideas. The older children also act as playground friends and lunchtime monitors helping younger children.

Parents' opinions are welcomed at Wixams Tree through methods such as questionnaires, feedback at Parents' Evenings and liaison with the Friends of Wixams Tree Parents' Society.

## **Rules and Laws**

The whole school was involved in creating our school rules, empowering the children to understand the importance of rules. The importance of law, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days; when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. In order to help children understand how society cannot operate without a set of laws, we teach them how our school rules create an ordered, fair and safe place in which to learn. The class rules are agreed by the children and are displayed in classrooms. We help children to distinguish right from wrong and adopt restorative justice approaches to resolve conflicts.

The school has a clearly structured behaviour policy which all stakeholders understand and follow. Visits from the police to talk to the children encourage pupils to understand that the law protects us and is essential for our well-being and safety.

## **Individual Liberty**

Our children have the opportunity to make individual choices and express opinions that develop their character and self-belief. However, they are encouraged to develop these qualities in the context of the rights and needs of other members of our school community. We model freedom of speech through pupil participation in class in the context of a safe, fair, supportive and ordered learning environment. We discuss and challenge stereotypes and implement a strong anti-bullying culture.

Pupils have key roles and responsibilities in school e.g. members of the behaviour panel; playground buddies etc. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and philosophy lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how they record, choose their lunch options, of participation in extracurricular clubs and opportunities etc., pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

## **Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

Wixams Tree Primary serves an area which is culturally diverse and 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.

Our central aim for our *'...pupils by the time they leave us, to be fully qualified, motivated and personally equipped to succeed in life and contribute to a rapidly changing world'* drives us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. This will be particularly necessary in a future where due to technological advances will make the 'world a smaller place.'

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is 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.

Specific examples of how we at Wixams Tree enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- Through Religious Education, PSHE and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures – in English through fiction and in art and music by considering cultures from other parts of the world.
- Celebrating cultural differences through assemblies, themed weeks, noticeboards and displays.

Whilst instances contrary to our values are relatively rare, no school or academy can guarantee that there will never be instances which are contrary to our values. Each is treated seriously in line with our policies and expectations.

### **Extremism**

Something which is clearly not part of any British or European value is extremism. It is important to remember that whilst the threat from so-called Islamic State has been a focus in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act, the Prevent Duty is clear that extremism of all kinds should be tackled too. In England, far right groups need to be tackled, too. Extremism is not a new topic in education, but schools have a relatively new statutory duty to pay "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

The Trust is aware of 'Prevent Strategy' and has written Prevent – Staff Guidance, and Prevent – Visiting Speakers and Events policies which should be read in conjunction with this British Values policy.