John Perry Primary School

Promoting British Values Policy

This policy covers many articles from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Some key ones are listed below.

UNCRC Article 29 – Goals of education

UNCRC Article 14 – Freedom of thought, belief and religion

Promoting democracy, the rule of law, and mutual respect links to the development of values and individual freedoms.

Last Reviewed on: February 2026

Next review due by: February 2029

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Promoting British Values at John Perry Primary School

"We want every school to promote the basic British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individualliberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs." Lord Nash

Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by:

"not undermining fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs" (Teachers Standards 9d)

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools.

Schools, through their curriculum, are legally bound actively to promote the fundamental British Values:

- Democracy – Respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process
- The rule of law – respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Individual liberty – support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Mutual respect – respect for all
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs – tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

At John Perry Primary, these values are reinforced regularly through our own School Values:

- To be kind, thoughtful, respectful and tolerant
- To be resilient, have a positive attitude and believe in yourself
- To demonstrate a strong sense of responsibility

A key part of our plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members ofsociety who treat others with respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain. British Values are promoted through the curriculum as well as within the life, values and work of the school. They are explicitly taught as part of our PSHE curriculum and we dedicate a number of Word of the Week assemblies to explore, promote and celebrate British Values. Additionally, the values are taught in R.E. and interwoven within our curriculum, which gives children real and meaningful opportunities to explore these values. At John Perry, we are certain that the active promotion of British Values means that children are enabled to develop a sense of community and begin to develop their understanding of their role andresponsibilities within it.

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Democracy - To understand how we can influence decision making through a democratic process.

The children learn about democracy in a range of contexts which are meaningful to them. Democracy is richly embedded within the school. Our whole school systems and structures lendthemselves to the active promotion of democracy. We empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each 'voice' and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty

For example, all children take part in a democratic School Council election process. Elected children form part of a successful and committed School Council which plays an integral role in the running of the school. The children at John Perry have an opportunity to have an active role in decisions that are made and consequently prepare them for their role as future citizens and members of society. Our School Council meet regularly to discuss issues, monitor the work of the school, and agree ways in which provision for education can be further enhanced and developed.

We empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each 'voice' and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Pupil Voice, pupil questionnaires, meeting with the Headteacher and through being either a House Captain/House Vice-Captain, Playground Buddy or a School Councillor. Our school Behaviour Policy involve rewards and sanctions; this is shared through all aspects of school life and also shared with parents, carers and children from Nursery to Year 6.

The principle of democracy is also explored in the History curriculum as well as in assemblies. We explore how democracy and the law works in Britain in contrast to other forms of government in other countries.

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

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to distinguish between right and wrong and understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to.

Our school rules and expectations are clear and fair. The importance of rules are consistently reinforced through assemblies, in classes, around the school and through our curriculum throughout the day, as well as when dealing with behaviour. Clear structures provide a framework, within which the children can develop an understanding of how good laws and rules benefit everyone.

Children are taught the value and reasons behind laws and rules that govern and protect us,the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. This is embedded through our School Values, school ethos, PSHE lessons and school assemblies. As a school we work to provide children with good role

models to guide our pupils into making the rightchoices. This is also supported in the wider community through the use of visitors including police and fire-fighters.
We have a clearly structured Behaviour policy which all stakeholders understand and follow.

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

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged and valued. Within school, children are actively encouraged to develop responsibility, think independently and make sensible choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Through the provision of a clear context for learning, and a framework of expectations, boundaries are provided, within which the children are safe and empowered to make choices.

As a Rights Respecting School, our pupils are respected individuals, and are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise those safely, for example through E- Safety lessons, the PSHE curriculum and our Talk Together programme.

We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests and skills. We educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely. In PSHE and R.E. lessons, all children are encouraged to share their opinions, beliefs and feelings in a safe way. We encourage our children to challenge stereotypes and, as part of our 'zero tolerance to bullying, we have implemented a strong anti-bullying culture.

Pupils are further empowered through being part of our School Council and being able to take part in pupil forums which link directly to the Strategic Leadership Team or Governors. Pupils are given the freedom to support fund raising events and the options to take on additional responsibilities such as House Captains or House Vice-Captains.

Mutual Respect - To understand that while people may hold different views, we may show respect towards them.

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values, and is clearly articulated in our Code of Conduct. We promote respect for individual differences and help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures, religions and ways of life. The children learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the school and in the classrooms. Each class draws up a set of class rules or a class agreement each year and use this to set the tone for the level of respect that is expected throughout the year.

Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour will be challenged. At John Perry we take pride

in participating in regular charity events and raising money for particular causes that are close to our hearts. As a school we continuously promote the importance of manners towards others and this is always evident with the children at John Perry, whether they are in school or outside of school. Additionally, we expect parents and carers to also advocate the use of manners and respect for others outside of school life.

At John Perry we also provide many opportunities to work as a team as part of raising the profile of mutual respect. This is encouraged through a range of contexts in school and outside of school including; whole school sports day events, Word of the Week assemblies, celebration of Black History Month, World Autism Awareness Week and Children's Mental Health week, as well as sports competitions and PSHE lessons. Our Reading Buddy scheme promotes mutual respect between pupils across different phases.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs - To accept that others have different faiths or beliefs (or none) and these should be accepted and tolerated.

Tolerance is a value that is widely promoted as part of our school values ethos and is core to school life. We value the diverse ethnic background of all pupils and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate these. We have found this approach to be enriching for all parties as it further educates and supports the understanding of tolerance and respect forthe differences in our community and the wider world. Underpinning all of this are a range of curriculum themes, which include a study of diverse cultures and traditions through Religious Education lessons. We place a great emphasis on promoting diversity within the school and wider world. Collective worship and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-basedbullying have been followed up and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different
faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within RE lessons. We follow the Barking and Dagenham agreed syllabus for RE which provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

We actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views. These values are implicitly embedded through the ethos of our school and curriculum. They are reflected within each area of the curriculum and we are always working on ways to ensure that these values enhanced.

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