



Promoting British Values Policy Statement

Effective Date: October 2015

Next Review Date: October 2018

Moorcroft School welcomes children and young people from a diverse range of cultures and ethnic backgrounds. As a school, we support and encourage the core values identified as central to the British way of life in the following ways:

Democracy

This is promoted as an integral part of the successful running of every class group. Pupils are encouraged to communicate their ideas and views, and also to listen to the ideas of others in a group. Class groups will regularly explore and then vote upon issues that affect the class as a whole. They will do this through the means of communication that is most appropriate to them. An example of this would be the setting of class rules. These rules will be selected by the pupils and, by a democratic process, agreement will be made as to which rules to adopt. Democratic processes will also be supported and developed through the Student Council – an elected body of students who will represent the views of their peers and be consulted on important school matters. For older students, projects on how our country is governed will take place, including visits from local MPs to talk about their work and the class actually going to Westminster to observe processes first hand.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are the ones that govern the class, the school or the country are regularly reinforced through every school day. Students at Moorcroft will learn and understand that laws are there to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and openly and that laws are there to protect us. This message is reinforced through a variety of ways including school assemblies and in the clear way that pupils are made aware of the school's Behaviour Policy. The rule of law will be further reinforced by close contact with the community police representative who will be a frequent visitor to the school. Regular visits from the police to talk and work with pupils at Moorcroft will be aimed at generating a positive image of the work of the police force and the role they play. This will range from exciting opportunities to see and sit in a police car for our youngest pupils through to Moorcroft pupils supporting with community based projects in association with the police.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young people to make choices safely, through of provision of a safe environment and empowering education. 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 PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. The development of choice making for our pupils is a core part of the offer at Moorcroft School and will be developed in a range of ways. These will range from the use of augmented communication techniques for non-verbal students to enabling our pupils to find a voice to verbally express their wants.

Mutual Respect

An integral Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy is centred upon core values such as 'respect', and pupils will participate in discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school will promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our Behaviour Policy. Much of the work of our creative therapy team is to enable our pupils to empathise with others and to see and understand the world in an increasingly non-ego centric way. Mutual respect is further encouraged by active promotion of our Equal Opportunities Policy, learning and celebrating other cultures and taking part in a wide range of multi-cultural festivals and celebrations.

Tolerance of Those of Different faiths & Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. As a school based in Greater London, we are very well placed to draw upon the rich diversity of culture that surrounds us. Opportunities will be taken to affirm the faiths and cultures of all pupils within the school including not just festivals and celebrations but also visiting different communities to experience the life and culture of those communities. Assemblies and discussions will be delivered to sensitively address issues such as prejudices and prejudice-based bullying and these will be further reinforced during PSHE sessions. The school and class rules will be a testament to our commitment to promote tolerance.

October 2015

Review Date: September 2018

Date ratified by Governing Body:

Signed:

Chair of Governors: