



## **British Values Statement**

### **Introduction**

At Sherwell Valley Primary School we promote 'British Values' through the entire curriculum as part of our SMSC provision. We fully recognise the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing face of Britain. We understand the crucial role the whole community plays in promoting diversity, tolerance and understanding in a Devon community.

Our school recognises the importance of this aspect of the curriculum especially in an area of Britain where our children have a limited access to people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures. We acknowledge the need for discussion of the term 'British values' and seek to promote on-going debate and exploration of what it means to be British.

We believe that every member of the School Community has a part to play in modelling and promoting respect for others and upholding the 'British Values'.

These values are outlined in the government guidance on Promoting Fundamental British Values (*November 2014 Ref DFE-00679- 2014*)

The values are:

### **Democracy**

Our children have many opportunities for their voice to be heard. We have an elected School Council with democratic elections held once a year in the Autumn term. Our School Council has elected representatives from every Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 class. In addition, there is a rota of staff members who attend the School Council Meetings. Councillors gather feedback via regular conferences with their class peers. This is then fed back to the council and actions are agreed and acted upon. Councillors meet regularly with the Head Teacher, SLT and other relevant members of the whole school staff to share their views and make requests. There are other examples of groups where children lead, represent others' views and make decisions, for example children across KS2 often use their initiative to set up their own Curriculum Clubs and Y6 children have the option of completing a Citizenship Award. There are regular surveys (whole school and classroom based), to gather the views of children to inform planning.

Democracy is a significant part of our PSHE Curriculum. For example, Y6 have invited in the local MP and Magistrates to discuss their roles within British Democracy in the academic year 2015 – 2016.

### **Rule of Law**

Sherwell Valley has strong links with Police Community Officers and external Education Officers who liaise on key issues. Our children are taught the value and reasons behind the laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities involved and they are taught to understand the consequences when laws are broken. Through our Core School Values we encourage our children to set codes of behaviour and we consistently strive to ensure all our children make decisions and choices that consider the school and wider community creating an environment of respect and responsibility.

### **Individual Liberty**

Sherwell Valley is committed to creating a learning environment that produces the right conditions for our children to become resilient and independent learners. We set high expectations and encourage our children to set challenging personal targets. Children of all ages are encouraged to become active and

valued citizens. The School has a strong tradition of supporting and respecting our local and national community and we promote this through supporting local and national charities and initiatives – for example, Children in Need Mufti Days, Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day, Pyjama Day for the RNLI and donating our Harvest Festival produce to ANODE.

### **Mutual Respect**

Respect is a strong part of the school's ethos and vision. All our children from EYFS through to Y6 learn their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect and this is reinforced in every area of the curriculum and beyond: through our Houses, all assemblies and representing the school in the wider community.

### **Tolerance and acceptance of those with different cultures and beliefs**

As a school situated in Devon, we recognise the importance of providing opportunities that promote acceptance of other cultures and beliefs. Across the school, our children have experienced many international visitors and visits. Y6 have the opportunity to participate in a French Residential, Y3 have been taught Mandarin Chinese by a visiting Chinese teacher from Beijing, Y2 have utilised the experience of a Spanish Primary School teacher to teach them about Christmas in Spain and through the Comenius Project, Sherwell Valley have hosted visiting teachers from from Poland.

In addition, our curriculum places a strong emphasis on global issues – for example, we are participating in the Global Learning with Torbay's Alpacas initiative. The RE curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths and cultures. In staff planning of Learning Experiences, all teachers aim to develop our children's understanding of SMSC and include consideration of British values. House and Class assemblies, Mufti Days and charity events like Comic Relief and Sports Relief regularly promote tolerance and respect.

**All members of the Sherwell Valley Primary School Community strive to ensure that our children leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and make a full and rewarding contribution to our society.**