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## FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

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Ofsted are now inspecting all early years providers - on how well we 'actively promote' British values. From 1st September 2015, The DfE have recently reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools and childcare settings 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."

Fundamental British Values does not mean that only British people have these values. But they do highlight the caring and tolerant behaviours people need to have to promote world peace! Under the Prevent duties it is expected that we should understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law.

### Statement of intent

Teaching British values is an integral part of the early years, it is a requirement of the EYFS and, as part of Ofsted's inspections, early years providers are now inspected on how these values are promoted and taught within the setting. We at Toad Hall Nursery promote British values by:

- Promoting British values as defined by DfE - which are already embedded in our day-to-day work with children
- Teaching children more about the world in which they live and developing their understanding of life in modern Britain. The intention of this new legislation, linked to the Prevent duty for England and Wales, is that all children including the very young are protected from being radicalised at an early age.

### Aim - What are British Values?

Our early years teaching will incorporate the following values:

**Individual Liberty** - allowing children to take risks, encourage a range of experiences allowing children to explore the language, feelings and responsibility and reflect on differences and understand everyone is free to have different opinions. Promoting self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in own abilities.

**Promoting the rule of law** - teaching children right from wrong or including the police in a 'people who help us' theme.

**Promoting democracy** - everyone has a voice and is listened to; children's learning and development files include their comments etc.

**Teaching mutual respect and tolerance** - ensuring children have the right to say 'no' and be respected for their choices; including world religions and festivals in our planning to teach children about the world in which they live; linking children's learning so they understand they are part of a much wider world; displaying posters and reading books which show world religions and cultures, blended families, disability, equality of opportunity etc as the norm.

At Toad Hall Nursery these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

We actively encourage discussion enabling us to support children's understanding of mutual respect and tolerance towards each other's opinions. Some authors include Beatrix Potter, C.S Lewis and Ronald Dahl is celebrated. We extend this activity involving the children into the local community, visiting the library, allowing your children to experience new ideas, feelings and a greater self-awareness of the world around them.

#### Understanding the World

Toad Hall embrace British food alongside cuisine from around the world is the perfect opportunity for your children to learn about and understand other cultures and traditions, again enabling children to explore these British values. We offer traditional British dishes on our menu, encouraging discussion about the part it plays in being British. Children can take turns to pick a favourite food from around the world, and our children from other parts of the world or who have family living in other countries, we ask them to share their favourite national dishes and incorporate these into our food activities. This gives us a perfect opportunity to allow the children to explore other traditions and cultures, as well as the rule of democracy.

#### Through Physical Development

A fun area for children to learn about: understanding and mutual respect of others. Alongside moving and dancing activities to British songs, we incorporate songs from different countries and 'genres' (encouraging children to discuss their favourites and therefore supporting their individual liberty). Using the slide in the gardens encourages turn taking and sharing. Trips to the local fields: engaging with the wider community and promoting mutual respect and tolerance. We hold a sports day for pre-school children which includes different sports. This is also a great opportunity to link British history with the rest of the world.

#### Through Communication and Language

'Britishness' can describe qualities such as showing mutual respect, kindness, and a tolerance for others. These are cornerstone qualities we instil in our teaching, and we incorporate these into all of the above activities - from encouraging open discussion on topics between children (e.g. when asking your children to vote on their favourite stories, or through discussion about why we have rules, 'laws' or boundaries), through to sharing activities and show and tell sessions (encouraging children to ask questions, respect and listen to others).

#### Method - How we teach British Values

We don't need to plan specific 'lessons' to teach children British values - they are included in everything we do. Britain has undergone rapid economic and social change in the last few decades, and we live in an increasingly diverse society. We need to teach our children that it is possible to live together peacefully, each of them a valuable part of our multicultural world. Whether you agree with it or not, Ofsted inspectors are required to make a judgement about how well we deliver a curriculum which includes teaching children about British values - and preparing them for life in modern Britain - so we need to address and show evidence of this in our planning. It is important to work closely with parents as well - to let them know that we are going to be teaching their children British values as part of your day-to-day. At Toad Hall we ensure to celebrate all festivals and cultural celebrations, particularly British. We also try to include this in meals and ensure that the children eat a variety of foods from around the world. We always spend time looking at "all around the world" where we look at clothes, foods, music, celebrations and traditions.

We take the children for walks and trips to get out and about in the community too - from woodland walks, trips to go to the field or around the local area and shops including a trip to the local library, where we share story time and allow the children to choose books to take back to Toad Hall. With our older children we try to explain why we do different things and the

importance of British values when working on "all about me". Other activities include promoting good manners, kindness and respect to the children.'

For example, you might be teaching the children about Valentine's/Mother/Fathers Day:

- Look at Valentine's/Mothers/Fathers Day cards in the local shops - British values = making links in the local community
- Design their own cards to give to family and friends - British values = valuing family
- Talk about how children across the world will be sending cards to their family and friends - teach children = we live in a multicultural and diverse world
- Let parents know that you are making cards and provide some resources so they can help their child learn more about hearts, flowers, colours etc at home - EYFS = working with parents.

Or we might be on an outing to the local park for a picnic:

- Look at flowers, trees, ducks etc - British values = learn about the world in which we live and be proud of what we see around us
- Pick up litter after the picnic - British values = respect the natural world and teach children to respect the law, learn right from wrong and to have social responsibility
- After the picnic, visit the library for story time - British values = promote a sense of belonging in our local community

Or within your local community some of the children in our provision might be celebrating Diwali at home, so we plan some activities to involve all the children in, for example, making Diwali / Diva lamps. While making the lamps we are:

- Teaching children about light and dark - EYFS - understanding the world
- Talking about the importance of light in different religions e.g., candles at Christmas, St Lucia's Day (Sweden) and Hanukah (in the Jewish calendar) - British values = learning about our own and respecting other faiths and beliefs.

Or we plan a session to work through the behaviour goals with the children:

- Each child has their turn to talk about what they think is important - British values = each child has a voice and is listened to; they feel important and that their views will be included
- We talk to the children about appropriate behaviour - British values = learning about right and wrong
- A behaviour goals poster is produced, and every child has contributed their ideas - British values = we live in a democracy

All the teaching we deliver must be relevant to and respectful of the individual children's learning needs - there is little point making Diwali candles with a 1 year old who will probably eat them - but everyone can be involved in making a big flower pictures after an outing and learn more about nature and the natural world (links to the EYFS Understanding the World - the world and Expressive Arts and Design - using media and materials).

Some examples of how British Values are embedded in our day-to-day curriculum:

- We teach children to be kind, helpful and respectful of others.
- We teach children to be part of their local community.
- We plan to celebrate festivals and mark special days from the world around us.
- We teach the children about compromise - that some of us believe one thing... some of us believe something totally different... but we can all play together in the same house (or group setting) and respect each other = British values - teaching about similarities and differences.
- We teach children to work together - we provide them with projects that involve everyone in the provision, and we plan group times, where children learn to listen, take turns and value contributions from others. This type of planning is a very important part of British values = teaching about shared values and working together towards a common goal.
- We teach children about the world in which they live - the world on their doorstep and the wider world - through books, posters, planned activities, resources, outings and much more.

- We teach children to listen and respect others...

Here are some ways in which we can teach children about life in modern Britain:

- We teach children about the world around them and use the seasons, weather, special days etc to plan meaningful learning experiences.
- We teach children about Britain, showing them the work of sculptors and artists to inspire creativity, listening to music to promote dance and drama (and listening skills of course).
- We extend teaching, using the library and online sources of information and support them as they learn to respect others by introducing music, dance, art etc from around the world.

#### Rule of Law

All staff use consistent and fair strategies and guidance in response to children's behaviour. We all wear emotion cards and respond to child/children and their feelings. It is important to first reflect and name the child's feelings, and show empathy with understanding, and allow them time to listen and calm down, before we try to engage or distract them with something they enjoy, or explain why we cannot hit or perform that behaviour again.

Remember when you are upset or angry and how hard it is to see reason and understanding before you have calmed down.

#### Golden rules for our Units

##### Baby unit & Nursery Unit

- We are kind and gentle; We don't hurt others.
- We share; We don't take things from others.
- We play and have fun!

##### Natterjacks & Frogs

- We share; We don't take things from others.
- We are kind and gentle; We don't hurt others.
- We listen; We don't interrupt.
- We are honest; We don't cover up the truth.
- We walk; We don't run.
- We Play and have fun!!

##### Garden Rules

- Run; but be aware of other children and slow when needed.
- Dig; but keep the soil off the grass areas.
- Look after the trees, plants, and animals.
- Tell an adult when you go inside.
- Wear your wellies in the wet mud.
- Climb on the low walls, not on the high walls or the fences.
- Jump; but not down the stairs
- Ride the bikes/scooters; but take turns.

##### Prevent duty Guidance

There is a requirement in the Early Years inspection handbook to protect children online - we must have security in place on computers, tablets etc to keep children from chat rooms and other places where they might be exposed to radicalisation or extremism. Whether we live in a predominantly white, middle-class suburb or a multicultural inner city, it is our responsibility to ensure children are safeguarded and kept safe and healthy, always aspiring to be the best they can possibly be.