

Promoting British Values at **Meadgate Primary School**

At Meadgate Primary School we encourage our children ***“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools 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.”***

The government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At all Eveleigh LINK Academy Trust schools these values are implemented and reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

· Democracy:

Democracy is a concept and quality that is explicit in many aspects of our school life. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Pupil Council. At these meetings the pupil voice is encouraged and children make key decisions about a range of events that affect them. The elections of school councilors, as well as the winner of the Class Care, Courtesy and Consideration Award at the end of the school year give pupils an opportunity to vote. Our school behaviour policy includes the use of golden times that involve rewards which the pupils vote on as a class group. Visits to Parliament

have been undertaken by members of the school council and will be a repeat event. With Parliamentary Elections the school sees and grasps an opportunity for children to choose candidates who are then expected to use an assembly to present a manifesto. These candidates are then able to run a campaign of informing their school public. Correct elections are held with ballot papers being allocated and filled in confidentially. These actions are an opportunity to discuss how important it is to run elections fairly and correctly. Successful candidates are given the opportunity to run the school alongside the SLT and make key decisions and design actions and policy.

· **The Rule of Law:**

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. PSHE schemes of work ensure a good coverage of these key facets of society in the correct cycle of learning. The school and the Academy Trust have recently bought into the JIGSAW PSHE scheme, which is all embracing and encompasses all of the main aspects of this important area of learning. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; Lifeguards etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. The “Crucial Crew Experience” for Year 6 allows children to see the importance of caring for individuals, property and the rule of law.

Individual classes are involved at the beginning of each new academic year in creating a charter or set of agreed rules for their class. These are displayed, referred to, discussed and adhered to.

The concept of law and support of the decision making process is reflected in the actions of the Childrens’ Parliament, the School Council. Debate, prioritised decision making and the following of agreed ideas are given precedent and are respected.

· **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 pupils to make choices safely, through a 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.

· **Mutual Respect:**

Our strong school ethos and behaviour are reflected in a range of policies. Key Core Values such as courtesy, consideration, care and respect are embodied in all areas of school life. Pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom charters and rules, as well as our behaviour policy. At the end of each year a child from each class is nominated and voted for by their peers to see who receives the Care, Courtesy and Consideration Award. In all aspects we are an inclusive school. The children are included by their presence and representation at School Council Meetings in discussing and making decisions that are valued and relevant.

· **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths, Beliefs and Cultures:**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Our detailed curriculum for RE, as well as topics that develop an understanding of other cultures and parts of the world, ensure a varied and non-tokenistic factual coverage. We hold a Multi-Cultural Mini Topic week in the Autumn term every year. These weeks have a focal point which is an exciting cultural event which is a celebration of diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving discussions and stories about different types of prejudices and prejudice-based issues and events in history have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. The school teaches Modern Foreign Languages. They run throughout the year and across all year groups. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school during assemblies.

