



*'Together, we care what we do, we enjoy what we learn, we achieve'*

*Core Christian Values: Love, Honesty and Respect*

## **Promoting British Values at Longcot and Fernham CE Primary School**

The DfE have recently reinforced the need ***“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, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”***

In line with the with the Department for Education’s five-part definition, we promote the following British values at Longcot and Fernham CE Primary School;

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The term ‘British values’ might be slightly misleading; the values that we promote are certainly not unique to Britain. We fully acknowledge that they are no different from the values of many other countries and cultures. As well as actively promoting British values, the opposite is also true: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including ‘extremist’ views.

Although this agenda is something which is developing in its significance for schools, it is not something new at Longcot and Fernham CE Primary School. In fact, the British values defined by the government reinforce and complement the rotating ‘Values for Life’ that is already an embedded part of our assemblies, teaching and learning and school life in general.

Through our promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding these values are explicitly taught in a range of ways including through circle times and special days/weeks such as ‘British Values Week’ and ‘Universal Children’s Day’. Additionally, the values are taught in R.E and interwoven within our skills based curriculum which gives children real and meaningful opportunities to explore these values. At Longcot and Fernham CE Primary School, 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 and responsibilities within it.

Longcot and Fernham CE Primary School takes the opportunity to actively promote British Values through daily whole school assemblies where a range of British Values are explored. Our whole school systems and structures lend themselves to the active promotion of British Values, heavily. For example, all children take part in a democratic school council election process and elected children run a successful school council which plays an integral role in informing the school

behaviour policy. Longcot and Fernham CE Primary School, also actively promotes British Values by challenging pupils, staff or parents who express opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'Extremist Beliefs', in appropriate ways

## Democracy

We have a responsibility to teach our children about the fundamental principles of democracy and its place in British society. This is achieved through school processes which model this principle:

- Dealing with social issues through class discussions and majority decisions
- Circle time
- Agreed Class Codes for behaviour and work attitude
- Children are taught about the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child and learn to respect their rights and the rights of others.
- School Council pupils visited parliament and met the local MP.
- Democracy is also promoted through PSHE lessons, assemblies and British Values week.

We are continuing to develop pupil voice at Longcot and Fernham CE Primary School so that Pupil voice becomes more significant. It is our vision that our pupil elected school council will play a strong role in our school. They will be elected by their class peers and be involved in making the school a better place to learn. Pupils have a great amount of input in regards to what and how they learn as they decide upon the topic they would like to learn about each half term and the teachers use this to inform planning. The pupil's voice is also heard through pupil conferencing and through pupil questionnaires. We know that the formation of the school council and the active participation of our pupils will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.

## The Rule of Law

All adults at Longcot and Fernham, whether senior leaders, teachers, support staff or governors, have a duty to protect children from harm and promote British Law and British Values. The school has a crucial part to play in providing a positive role model for all children and to build positive links with the local community.

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to 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.

This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies, in classes, around the school and through our curriculum. The involvement of our pupils in the creation of the school rules helps them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken. The pupils all contribute to a 'Class Code' at the beginning of each academic year as part of the settling in process in new classes. Through SMSC questions and circle times, we allow opportunity to debate and discuss the reasons for laws so that children can recognise the importance of these for their own protection. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community including the police, the fire brigade and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils. Opportunities for children to take more responsibility around the school are encouraged and such roles as 'Eco Monitors, Register Monitors are available. These value are reinforced in different ways:

- Visits from authorities, for example the police and fire service
- When rules for particular faiths are explored during RE lesson
- During other lessons, such as PE, where there is a respect and appreciation for rules

- Emphasising the importance of our behaviour guidelines during trips and for e-safety.

### **Individual Liberty**

Alongside rules and law, we promote individual freedom of choice and the children's right to respectfully express their views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive and empowering environment we provide boundaries for our pupils to make safe and responsible choices; for example:

- Choices about their learning challenges or activities, including the Early Years Foundation 'choosing time'
- Promoting healthy lifestyle choices with the lunchtime salad bar and sports clubs
- Choices around their participation in other extra-curricular activities
- Children are taught how to keep themselves safe, including on-line.

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. Pupils are given the freedom to make a variety of meaningful choices such as choosing the level of challenge they want to progress to in a lesson and taking ownership of their child-led learning through the Growth Mindset project.

We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests and skills. Through our E-Safety activities, we educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely. In weekly circle times, all children are encouraged to share their feelings in a safe way. At Longcot and Fernham CE Primary School, we believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives.

### **Mutual respect**

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. The children are encouraged to treat each other, staff and parents with great respect. By emphasising and modelling empathy, good character and other important life skills, we constantly strive to create well-rounded and thoughtful pupils. We value each other as unique and special individuals; we celebrate diversity and encourage our community to celebrate different cultures and beliefs. This is evident when walking around the School and in the classrooms. Each class draws up a set of class rules or a class code each year and use this to set the tone for the level of respect that is expected throughout the year. Through Values Days, E-Safety Days and British Values week, the children are taught to value differences in themselves and others and most importantly to show respect to all. As mentioned previously, PSHE lessons and circle times facilitate opportunities for children to show respect to each other's beliefs, feelings and opinions by given each child a forum to share these on and an expectation that these must be listened to.

We develop mutual respect by being a close community where we celebrate each other's successes, acknowledging and supporting the accomplishments of others. We encourage our pupils to 'look out' for other members of the school community creating helpful and generous characters.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

Longcot and Fernham CE Primary School is proud to promote and celebrate different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs. Tolerance, inclusiveness and mutual respect are at the heart of our ethos and aims. Our core aim of preparing the children for the future drives us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. This will be particularly



