

Statement on British Values at Anstey First School

“Be the Best You Can Be” through Respect, Responsibility and Resilience at Anstey First 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 and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”*

At Anstey First School we take very seriously our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain. We value the ethnic backgrounds of all pupils and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate and explore these alongside other cultures in our country. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalization by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them (See Anstey’s response to extremism statement found within policies).

Anstey First School accepts admissions from all those entitled to an education under British law, including pupils of all faiths or none. It follows the policies outlined by its governing body regarding equal opportunities, which guarantee that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. It seeks to serve all.

We ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of the school. All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts. Our cross curricular approach provides excellent opportunities to deepen and develop understanding developing the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of our children.

Our school makes considerable efforts to ensure children have exposure to a wide experience beyond their local community during which these concepts are shown, through for example, sporting events, a range of visits and use of outdoor education opportunities. Their strong-rooted values-based understanding gives them an excellent platform for embracing difference.

The Government emphasizes that schools are required to ensure that key ‘British Values’ are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the ‘Prevent Strategy’ - values of:

Democracy: Democracy underpins a lot of the work we undertake with our children at Anstey. Our Pupil Leadership Team is an important part of helping our pupils at Anstey to have a “voice” in the running of the school community. Each member of the Pupil Leadership Team uses their personal talents and abilities to contribute to the greater good of Anstey First School. The KS2 pupils (Wise Owls) take the main responsibility with input from our younger KS1 pupils (Little Owls) through pupil voice group meetings, pupil surveys and pupil led assemblies. Children are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where children feel safe to disagree with each other. We are proud to ensure ALL children’s voices are heard.

In relation to the wider world, Anstey pupils learn about the process of democracy in the UK and democracy in the world. In 2015 pupils are looking at the main political parties in the UK and their views on education in the run up to the general election. Wise Owls debated on which party they felt would help education in the future.

The Rule of Law: The importance of laws (whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country) are reinforced throughout our curriculum at Anstey First School. We strive as a school community to promote the philosophy that all members (pupils and adults) have a **responsibility** to always do the right thing, even when no-one is looking. Our approach is derived from the key value of personal responsibility in making the right choices and understanding the impact if a wrong choice is made. Our pupils take their responsibility of following rules and understanding laws in the wider world seriously in order to help themselves and others fulfil our school motto to “Be the best you can be”. Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws; that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences and impact when rules/laws are broken. Pupils also learn about the UNCRC (Children’s Rights) and what adults must do to within

laws to help keep children safe and happy. We also have visits from authorities such as the police and fire service to help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty: Anstey pupils learn about their individual liberties and others' through Children's Rights lessons and discussions on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Our values based discussions and acts of worship begin with discussion about **Respect, Responsibility** and **Resilience**. We promote that children have the responsibility to look after everyone's rights as well as respecting the rights of others. Anstey pupils are strongly encouraged to develop independence in learning and to think for themselves. We encourage pupils to have the resilience to recognise when their rights are being infringed and to seek help and support appropriately within school and in the wider community. Often this awareness is learnt through E-safety sessions, SEAL/PSHE lessons and assemblies. Pupils are also consulted on many aspects of school life and demonstrate independence of thought and action as evidence in our topic planning and general input to our Pupil Leadership Team, choice of challenge, of how they record work, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe school environment and empowering education.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs: At Anstey School respect is a fundamental school value. Much of the work we do in school pivots around respect. We pay explicit attention to this in our RE, PHSE, and citizenship based lessons. Respect is a school value that is discussed deeply, starting with self-respect and covering respect for family, friends, and other groups; the world and its people and the environment. Children can articulate that respect is a school value and why respect is important; How they show respect to others and how they feel about it for themselves. Children's behaviour demonstrates their good understanding of this value in action. We want Anstey pupils to see the wider world with "gentle eyes" and understand that differences and similarities we all have create a diverse and interesting world. Our pupils are able to talk about the different faiths and cultures they learn about, ask questions and show tolerance and respect for others of different faiths and religions.

Anstey First School does, through a wide range of activities, secure such standards and uses strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for children. Should you feel that our school is not meeting this requirement, you should contact the school office and request to express your concerns with Mrs Myers, Headteacher. Likewise, if you feel that anyone working at the school is, intentionally or otherwise, undermining these values you should report this to Mrs Myers immediately.