



BRITISH VALUES STATEMENT

British Values Statement

At Tor View Specialist Learning Community we value the diversity of backgrounds of all pupils, families and wider school community.

The Department for Education states that there is a 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”.

The Department for Education defines British Values as follows:

- Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
- Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Support for equality of opportunity for all
- Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

Our school reflects British values in all that we do. We aim to nurture our children and young people so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We encourage our children and young people to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

At Tor View, we actively promote British values in the following ways:

Democracy

- All children are encouraged to debate topics of interest, express their views and make a meaningful contribution to the running of the school on matters that directly involve pupils. Children also have the opportunity to have their voices heard through circle time, pupil questionnaires and surveys. Developing communication skills is central to the school curriculum and children are taught to use a wide range

of strategies in addition to speech to aid their communication, including ipads, Makaton sign language, PECS.

- The principle of democracy is explored in the curriculum as well as during assemblies and special days. Members of the School Council are democratically elected annually and each candidate is supported to produce a manifesto for their peers.
- Pupils support staff in making decisions and positive changes for example interviewing senior staff as part of the recruitment process, planning the makings on the Primary playground, selecting food choices when catering for outside events.

Rule of Law

- Our school has 'School Rules' and 'Healthy School Rules' which were devised by School Council in consultation with senior staff and the School Change Team. Our school rules are integral to our learning and ethos. Our Healthy School Rules support our children in making healthy life choices every day.
- School rules and expectations are clear and fair; they are reintroduced every Autumn term in Assemblies.
- Rewards and sanctions are used consistently and are selected to be age appropriate and reflect the cognitive level of the individual to ensure that meaningful learning takes place.
- Pupils are always helped to distinguish right from wrong, in the classroom, during assemblies and on the playground. Where pupils are unable to self-regulate or make poor choices they are debriefed to help them to understand the link between action, choices and consequences.
- Pupils are encouraged to respect the law and Tor View encourages visits from authorities including the Police, Fire Service and Ambulance Service to help reinforce this message.
- The Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies clarify Tor View's intolerance of any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to pupils, staff and parents and carers.
- Our secondary and FE curricula have a life skills dimension and through PSHCE, Community and Home Management we teach young people about their roles and responsibilities.

Individual Liberty

- Throughout school, pupils are actively encouraged, and given the freedom to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment, examples include: (i) lunchtime meal choices; (ii) signing up for extra-curricular clubs; (iii) communication snack time.
- As pupils grow and develop through the school they are given more opportunities to self-regulate and make good choices. The school operates a Privileged (KS3) and Trusted Pupil (KS4) Badge Scheme enabling wearers a greater degree of freedom around school.
- All pupils from EYFS to FE are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and our pastoral support reinforces the importance of making the right choices.

- Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our online safety teaching and PSHE lessons.
- Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged. A strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed. The school governing body takes an active interest and monitors all incidents. The school also operates a robust system of logging incidents.
- Pupils have key roles and responsibilities in school for example Primary Sports' Leaders.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- Respect is one of the core values of our school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone, adults and children.
- Pupils are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.
- Staff and pupils are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- Links and visits are promoted with local faith communities and places of worship through our RE curriculum.
- Through the PSHE and RE curriculums pupils are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations.
- Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudiced-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE.
- We offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected and global dimension work embedded in many of our Creative Curriculum topics, such as the Travel and Holidays. These curriculum topics offer children the chance to reflect on our core values and British values.
- Our Face Me Theatre Company gives young people with a disability the opportunity to voice their experiences of living with a disability, informing others about how they wish to be engaged by wider society.