



GESHER SCHOOL
ENGAGE EMPOWER EDUCATE

British Values Policy

2020-2021

Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
December 2020	December 2021	Life Coordinator	Kirsten Jowett

1. Introduction to British Values

In 2011, the Government set out its definition of 'British Values' in its Prevent Strategy.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. They defined British Values as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

At Gesher Primary School, we promote these values through our ethos, values, aims and our own curriculum and enrichment activities. Our aims and scheme of work are set out in our PSHEE policy but the aims are repeated in Appendix 1 of this policy.

1. Democracy

- On a daily basis, we ensure that pupils are listened to by adults and taught to listen to one another. We teach children how to debate respectfully
- All members of our school are expected to contribute actively and thoughtfully to their community
- The School's leadership also strives to model the values of transparency and accountability in its own actions and governance
- Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through e- safety, assemblies, circle time and PSHEE work

2. The rule of law

- All families, upon first joining the School, sign Home-School Agreements outlining their rights and responsibilities. We also use Class Charters in class to help children demonstrate their attitudes and behaviours towards the range of responsibilities in school
- We teach children to distinguish right from wrong, drawing parallels between rule breaking and behaviour management at school and in society generally, involving pupils in understanding what makes a disciplinary action fair and just, and modelling consistency in the exercise of authority

- Pupils are always helped to distinguish right from wrong and are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff at Geshar educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. We provide opportunities within PSHEE lessons for our pupils to explore and discuss the importance of making the right choices

3. Individual liberty

- Our School has an enriched and creative curriculum, where children make choices as learners, both in class, in assemblies and in extracurricular activities
- We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life 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 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
- The extra-curricular activities on offer will encourage pupils to take opportunities to follow their interests in art, music, sport, reading etc.
- We will ensure that focuses to support such outcomes for students are within our regular curriculum

4. Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

- Geshar Primary School is committed to serving its community. We recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom
- Respect is one of the core values at our school. Pupils will know and understand that it is expected, that respect is shown to everyone, adults and children alike. Our pupils learn that, their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community will follow this ethos and treat each other with respect
- Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum, by providing the opportunity for children to express their views in a safe environment. Through our PSHEE and RE curriculum, pupils will, where appropriate, be encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as different faith, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality and difference of family situations
- There will be a strong anti-bullying culture at the school, with an annual anti-bullying themed week and all staff and pupils take an active part in this. The school operates a robust policy of logging incidents. Pupils

as well as all teaching staff, the Headteacher and deputy Headteacher will have key roles and responsibilities within school.

2. Learning for Life Curriculum

At Gesher School we follow the learning for life curriculum. This program is designed to support schools in preparing children for the complexities of modern society. Many of its focuses link directly to British Values. These include respect, responsibility, honesty/trust, caring/fairness, perseverance, self-discipline, life skills, courage, and citizenship. We have weekly assemblies that cover these topics in order to promote principles to our children, as well as exploring these values further in the weekly Middah focus.

3. Preventing radicalisation and extremism:

Actively promoting British Values also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical, or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

The Governing board of Gesher School has a zero tolerance approach to extremist behaviour for all school community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our children protects them from exposure to negative influences.

Gesher Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, alongside tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

At Gesher Primary School we strive endlessly to ensure that our pupils leave with the strongest foundation of values, upon which they can build a successful life and make a positive contribution to our society.

Appendix 1 - Gesher School's Ethos, Values and Aims

Taking into account the individual needs of our children, we aim to:

- enable our children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable our children to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage our children to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely;
- enable our children to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling children to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010;
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England;
- prevent the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school; and
- take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of children they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views