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**Harrowbarrow School**

British Values Policy

**Actively Promoting British values at Harrowbarrow School**

**This policy was written in July 2015**

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 Harrowbarrow School;

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

At Harrowbarrow School students will encounter these principles throughout everyday school life. In particular, our promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding is where these value are explicitly taught in a range of ways including through circle times, R-Time and Restorative Thinking sessions. 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 Harrowbarrow 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.

Harrowbarrow School takes the opportunity to actively promote British Values through daily whole school, key stage and class 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 key policies. Harrowbarrow 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**

Pupil voice is significant at the Harrowbarrow School. Our pupil elected school council plays a strong role in our school. They are elected by their class peers and are involved in making the school a better place to learn. Pupils are involved in deciding what and how they learn as they have input into 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**

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. Through PSHE 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, RNLI Lifeguards, 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 Playground Pal and lunchtime helpers are available.

**Individual Liberty**

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 their ‘Fantastic Finishes’.

We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests and skills. Through our E-Safety days, 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 Harrowbarrow 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 learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the school and in the classrooms. Children are encouraged to showcase their work and talents in a variety of ways e.g. at weekly celebration assemblies and through the fortnightly newsletter. Each class draws up a set of class rules or a class agreement yearly and use this to set the tone for the level of respect that is expected throughout the year. Pupils are reminded regularly of what is expected of them and all staff actively seek the ‘good’ to hold up as examples to others.

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

Harrowbarrow School follows the Cornwall RE agreed syllabus which ensures that all children learn about the main religions and teaches respect and understanding for the cultures, beliefs, opinions and traditions or others. Assemblies also help to contribute to the knowledge of special occasions, beliefs and customs. Additionally, special visitors are invited to share their beliefs and experiences and give our pupils first-hand experience of meeting those from different backgrounds to their own. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future. We use opportunities such as the Olympics and current news and events from around the world to help the children study and learn about life and cultures in different countries.

Agreed by governors: July 2015

Reviewed: October 2018

Next review: October 2023