

Summerhill Infant School: Definition of British Values (December 2014)

The Department for Education state 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 government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. At Summerhill Infant School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

From Reception through to Year Two, it is embedded into school experience that our children listen carefully to adults and peers, respecting the right for every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Our pupils give the school their views, ideas and opinions through pupil surveys, House, Class and School Council meetings. Many of these views, ideas and opinions have positively changed pupil experiences at our school. We hold elections for School Council Representatives and House Captains based solely on pupil votes, which reflects our British electoral system. This gives our pupils an early relevant model of democracy in action.



The Rule of Law

Our pupils are introduced to our Golden Rules, which help each child to fulfil our school motto:

‘Rise to each challenge-Shine with Success’.



The Golden Rules are part of the fabric of the day to day experience of every pupil. Each year in each class pupils’ sign up to a charter of the class rules and pupils are clear of their meaning with growing maturity and understand how it helps every child succeed in a safe and ordered learning environment. Our Golden Rules reflect the importance of laws that govern our country, or schools and the need for them to be

consistently reinforced. As a result of this our pupils are aware of the values and reasons behind laws, that they guide and protect us; their responsibilities within the law and the consequences when laws (rules) are broken.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make positive choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge; of how they record; of participation in our many extra- curricular activities; our pupils are given the freedom to make choices.



Mutual Respect:

Respect others their thoughts, feelings and property is one of our key Golden Rules of our school. Our pupils explore the meaning of respect each year in class and as a whole school.

Our House System rewards the demonstration of mutual respect. Our pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small, our topics give pupils many opportunities each year to develop their understanding of respect. Mutual Respect underpins our work and relationships every day both in and out of the classroom.



Tolerance of Those with Faiths and Beliefs

Our Golden Rule: **Respect others their feelings and property** helps our young pupils understanding and tolerance of those who faiths and beliefs. Our school enhances understanding of different faiths and beliefs education studies; PSHE work; whole school key faith celebrations; welcoming visitors, and visiting local places of worship to help pupils deepen their understanding of the faith and beliefs of others through discussion and discovery . Our whole school curriculum recognises the multi-cultural catchment area we serve and focusses on making sure our large English as an additional language (EAL) group of pupils feel their faith and beliefs are



Different

thoughts, to develop an have different pupils through religious participation in parents/carers

positively represented. There is opportunity to study beliefs, traditions and customs, with visitors from the local community invited into our school to enrich and extend understanding. Through this our pupils gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society.