

Promoting British Values at Butterflies Montessori Nursery

The DfE have recently reinforced the need “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all early years settings (Early Years Handbook 2017) 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.” *Ofsted* will now judge all early years providers, and schools on how well *British Values* are being ‘actively promoted’. This is now a statutory requirement.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 '**Prevent Strategy**', and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014 and added to *Ofsted* inspection guidance in July 2014 (updated Early Years inspection Handbook May 19).

The intention of this new legislation, linked with the *Prevent Duty for England and Wales*, is that all children including the very young are protected from ‘being radicalised at an early age’.

The *Counter Terrorism and Security Act* also places a duty of care on early years providers ‘to have due regards to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’.

Aim of Policy:

Butterflies Montessori Nursery is an inclusive setting and our ethos and curriculum enables children to be independent learners, to make choices and to build strong relationships with their peers and all adults. Our setting believes that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met and where there are clear and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour. We would challenge children, staff or parents who expressed opinions contrary to fundamental British values. British Values are a set of four fundamental values introduced to keep children safe and promote their welfare.

Democracy: making decisions together

Democracy is embedded within the nursery as staff respect, listen to and act on our children's voice, for example when a child does or does not need help. We demonstrate democracy in action by involving children to vote, for example by choosing the next role-play theme or choice of story with a show of hands. Children are given opportunities to make decisions about the choice of activities and resources they play with, involving turn-taking, sharing and collaboration, following the Montessori ethos of ‘freedom of choice.’ Children are given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued. Children are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their ideas, opinions and voices heard and valued. In ‘partnership with parents’ our open door policy means that parents are always welcome to talk to us and we will try our best to follow their wishes.

The Rule of Law: understanding rules matter

We consistently reinforce our high expectations of children.

Children are involved in making nursery rules and are expected to contribute and co-operate with them, taking into account the views of others and distinguishing from right and wrong with the support of understanding adults. Children are taught the value and reasons behind our expectations (rules), that they are there to protect us, that everyone has a responsibility and that there are consequences when rules are broken.

Our '**Behaviour Management Policy**' aims to teach children to behave in socially acceptable ways and to understand the rights and needs of others. We use positive strategies to handle any conflict and praise and acknowledge desirable behaviours. We document all incidents of behaviour that is deemed in breach of this policy and the fundamental British values principles. Incidents are monitored and preventative action taken where necessary.

Individual Liberty- Freedom for all

Children are actively encouraged to make choices, which is central to the Montessori ethos. Our children are encouraged to give their opinions and share these ideas with due regard for the feelings of others, understanding and exercising their rights and personal freedoms and are given opportunities to resolve conflicts effectively. As part of our Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) curriculum we place a huge emphasis on the social and emotional learning of our children, helping them develop a positive sense of themselves, providing opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities, for example through allowing children to take risks on an obstacle course, mix colours, talk about their experiences and learning.

Mutual Respect- Treat others as you want to be treated

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values within the Montessori ethos and we value all our children and families. Children learn about respect through interactions with caring adults and are supported through PSED by helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others, treating others as you want to be treated. Adults support children to understand how their actions and words affect others, developing their social skills and helping children manage their own feelings, by caring, sharing and listening to others. All children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities are valued for their individuality and supported to achieve their best. We celebrate our rich cultural and religious diversity and promote mutual respect. Children are taught that life is not the same for everyone and we support charities such as 'Red Nose Day' and 'Children in Need'. We celebrate 'Harvest Festival' where the produce we donate to the chapel is given to local elderly people. We have an Equality and diversity policy in place.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Practitioners encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours, such as sharing and respecting other's opinions. We aim to enhance children's understanding of different faiths and beliefs by participating in a range of celebrations throughout the year. Children have the opportunity to dress-up in clothes and try different foods from other cultures and we encourage parents/carers to participate and support our multi-cultural events. We ensure that books, posters, displays, messages of welcome reflect the wide range of languages and cultures that we celebrate. We monitor all forms of bullying and harassment and actively promote courtesy and good manners towards all.

Practitioners promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural or racial stereotyping.

At Butterflies Montessori Nursery we practice true Montessori principles that are embedded in everything we do, those of respect and tolerance, having empathy and caring attitudes so that everyone at our setting feels valued and respected.

This policy was reviewed: April 2023

(Policies dated and signed by Manager in nursery 'Policy and Procedure File')