BRITISH VALUES POLICY

The government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 ‘Prevent Strategy’.

The aim of our policy is to prevent a child from being drawn into terrorism by being radicalised or support extremism in later years. We hope that by teaching children these British values from a young age they will grow into adults who are tolerant and accepting. We recognise that the United Kingdom is a multi-cultural and multi faith diverse society and we teach the children that it is possible to live together peacefully and that each person is a valuable part of our multi-cultural world. Our diversity has created a strong bond and promoting British values is about encouraging the children to share a set of values that promote tolerance, respect and community cohesion.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Extremism is defined in the 2011 ‘Prevent strategy’ as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Through our Fundamental British values policy which promotes children’s well-being and is embedded in our day to day work we promote equality, diversity and tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. Each day the children are taught the difference between right and wrong and learn to take turns and share. Staff would challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes and the children are taught about the world in which they live and are developed to understand life in modern Britain.

Scallywags are 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 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.

Many of our activities present opportunities for exploring and promoting each of the British values. We will do our utmost to protect children against extremist and violent views by identifying the risk of being drawn into radicalisation and providing a safe inclusive learning environment that supports spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development through the promotion of fundamental British values.

Democracy: Making decisions together

Children have the right to participate in making decisions about things that concern them and they have a right to an education. We live within a democracy of which the ideals promote a shared belief in fairness and equality and a right to participate in important decision making. Arising from these ideals is an emphasis on shared responsibility, mutual respect, and the wider community. By exploring feelings with the children, we are helping them to empathise with others. Young children play and explore and being able to do so in a democratic environment where everyone can share and take turns and work together will be more rewarding.

We encourage children to talk about their feelings and value each other’s views. The children know that their views count, and we make decisions together. Through the day the children will be given opportunities for thinking, questioning, sharing, and taking turns. Children are taught to share time, space, and resources with others through the games that we play and circle time. Children understand that they need to take turns and how important it is to share so that everyone has an equal opportunity to learn and play. The children will be asked to suggest solutions and come up with ideas for how to resolve differences.

* When children become older siblings, we discuss how important their role is within the family.
* Children can choose which area they would like to play in.
* Children are asked what new resources they would like
* Children’s and parent’s comments are included on the learning journeys.
* Questionnaires are issued to new parents and annually to all parents to give them an opportunity to voice their opinions.
* We have monthly staff meetings and staff are given the opportunity to put their ideas forward.
* Circle time gives children the opportunity to speak but to also listen to others.
* Snack demonstrates how everyone is entitled to a fair share.
* Books are read to children on various issues and topics and then they will be asked to reflect on the story.
* Team games are played to encourage teamwork and cooperation.

Rule of Law: Understanding that rules matter

Children have the right to say what they want and the right to freedom of association, but they also have a responsibility to ensure that they do not stop others enjoying their rights. British citizens are expected to abide by the rule of law; this means being able to follow rules, distinguish between right and wrong and understand the consequences of negative and illegal actions in terms of how they impact upon other individuals and society. Following the rule of law involves being able to pay attention, listen and understand what is expected. Children who can listen to and follow instructions will be more likely to succeed both in terms of learning and meeting behavioural expectations.

Children need to learn to understand how they feel and why; if they can do this, they will be able to manage their feelings and regulate their behaviour. Children will be taught to think for themselves, and they need to understand why something is wrong. They will be encouraged to consider the consequences of their actions for themselves as well as to empathise with others and think about how their actions affect those around them.

The children are taught how to manage their feelings and behaviour and why rules are made and what the consequences are if they are broken. Children will be taught that it is better to communicate with each other instead of letting events take over resulting in misunderstandings, disagreements and hurt feelings.

* The children are involved in drawing up ‘What makes Scallywags a happy place’. These are on display in the setting.
* Children are aware that the rules apply to everyone, i.e. everyone is expected to help tidy up and put things away.
* We have regular routines so that the children understand what is expected of them.
* Children are taught to distinguish right from wrong from a very young age.
* Children are reminded of ‘What makes Scallywags a happy place’ at the beginning of each day.
* Staff will speak to a parent at the end of the day if there are any concerns or behavioural issues.
* Children are spoken to about any negative behaviour, and it is explained to them how they have made another child or staff member feel.
* Children are always praised for anything positive that is done.
* We play games that involve listening to and following instructions.
* Stories are used to introduce children to good role models and children are asked to empathise with the characters.
* Children are taught to say no don’t do that instead of lashing out or pushing.

Individual Liberty: Freedom for all

People in Britain have a right to personal freedom, meaning they are free to make their own choices, voice personal opinions and portray their individual identity without fear. Children will be encouraged to talk about their likes and dislikes and respect that not everyone likes the same things.

Children will be encouraged to develop a positive sense of themselves and to discuss how they are feeling. Their self- esteem will be developed, and they will appreciate that it is fine to be different and that making mistakes is part of the learning. We will teach children to communicate so that they will be able to express themselves as well as listening to others.

* Children learn to become independent by serving their own snack.
* Children are encouraged to go to the toilet by themselves if they are happy to do so.
* Children will put on their own coats and shoes if they are able to and encouraged to learn to do so.
* Children are given the opportunity to evaluate a task or topic as are the staff.
* Circle time provides the ideal opportunity for the children to talk about themselves, their families and how they are feeling.
* Children are encouraged to make choices.
* An abundance of resources are available for children to explore on their own as part of “free play”.
* Many of the activities undertaken outside will contain an element of risk taking i.e., riding bikes, climbing, balancing.
* Staff are constantly praising the children and celebrate their achievements to increase their self-esteem.
* Children can express themselves non-verbally through art, role play, dance, and music.
* Games are played where children can practice their listening skills.
* Children are encouraged to ask questions.
* After a story has been read; there will be an opportunity to reflect on the characters and the moral of the story.
* We will involve children in conversations and debates that gets them thinking and questioning.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance: Treat others as you want to be treated

Britain is a diverse society where people of different races, faiths and beliefs and cultural backgrounds should expect to live and work together peacefully. To ensure a respectful and tolerant society of the future children must learn not only to accept and respect difference but appreciate the value of diversity and the rich opportunities it presents. We promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and teach children to respect their own and other cultures and support sexual equality.

The nursery creates an inclusive environment where everyone is valued, and differences portrayed positively. We work with our parents and have good links within the community. We appreciate that some families are the same and some are different due to faith, communities, and tradition. We teach children to be kind to everyone and that it is good to share. Children will be made to feel proud of their cultural heritage and familial background. Children will be encouraged to explore similarities and differences between themselves and others, so they grow up understanding and appreciating difference.

* All children are welcomed into the nursery including children with disabilities or from ethnic minorities including those with different faiths and beliefs.
* Staff read books to the children which challenge stereotypes such as “my family, my world” and “it is ok to be different” and other stories from around the world.
* Children are encouraged to share toys.
* We often discuss the importance of looking after the environment and being green.
* There are multi-cultural toys in place such as jigsaws, books, and dolls.
* Children are encouraged to assist less able children if they require it when completing tasks or sporting activities.
* Children are given the opportunity to dress up in different clothes that celebrate different cultures and gender.
* We celebrate Remembrance Day and other significant dates such as Easter and Christmas.
* We celebrate world festivals and events such as Diwali and The Chinese New Year.
* We try different foods from around the world.
* Children are introduced to art and music from different cultures.
* We engage with the wider community to promote a sense of belonging in the community and explain peoples job roles.
* We will endeavour to demonstrate that we listen to children’s and parent’s views and take them into account when planning activities, developing environments, and reviewing children’s progress.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the pre-school held on 08.10.18

Signed on behalf of the pre-school Gary Cox

Reviewed 28.08.16, 30.08.17, 12.08.18, 08.08.19, 17.07.20, 08.08.21, 17.08.22, 15.08.23