

Sir James Knott Nursery School



Promoting British Values policy

“Creating strong and lasting foundations for learning”

Certified as reviewed and approved by the Teaching and Learning Sub-Committee:	22nd January 2019
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Designated member of staff's responsibility:	Mr Croft- Headteacher
Next review date:	January 2021 or earlier if new guidance becomes available



Promoting British Values at Sir James Knott Nursery School

Rationale

Sir James Knott Nursery School have an obligation under section 78 of the Education Act (2002) which requires all schools, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, to promote the Spiritual, Moral, Cultural, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils at the school and of society. This guidance relates specifically to the requirements to actively promote fundamental British Values in schools and explains how this can be met through the general requirement in the 2002 Act.

Fundamental British Values in the Early Years

The Department for Education (DfE) have emphasised that the statutory requirements for early years providers are very clear.

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 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 have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year.

At Sir James Knott Nursery School we believe that the EYFS already provides a solid foundation to encourage a child’s understanding and acceptance that we live in diverse communities with many different cultures and lifestyles.

Separately, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act also places a duty on early years providers “to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” (The Prevent Duty). Statutory guidance on the duty has been embedded into relevant policies at Sir James Knott Nursery School and also into our code of conduct.

The DfE have defined British Values as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

At Sir James Knott we are committed to actively promoting British Values and this forms part of our wider work in school with children in relation to their Spiritual, Moral, social and Cultural education (SMSC). At the heart of these values, lie good relationships in which teachers, teaching assistants and pupils work together towards common goals. Our Nursery School already in place to support and embed these values and it is our aim to ensure we effectively share this with pupils, staff, governors and the wider community. These values are integral to our school vision and ethos and are reinforced in a variety of ways.

Part of our school ethos and Relationship Policy is based on 'Respect'. Our Relationship Policy outlines;

Rights:

All our children have the right to:

- Learn, and to make progress in their learning
- Feel physically and emotionally safe at all times
- Be treated with respect and dignity at all times
- Know their property will be kept safe
- A clean and tidy school
- Express their feelings in an appropriate way (Emotional Intelligence).

Responsibilities of Children:

I have a responsibility to:

- Make others feel safe and happy
- Help others learn
- Respect other people
- Respect and care for other people's property
- Help keep the school clean and tidy.

All our staff have the right to:

- Teach without undue disruption
- Learn how to improve their practice
- Feel physically and emotionally safe at all times
- Be treated with dignity and respect at all times
- Express their feelings in an appropriate way (Emotional Intelligence).

Responsibilities

- Are linked to rights, and this should be made explicit to our children
- All people at Sir James Knott Nursery School are responsible for their own behaviour. Nobody can make us behave badly. We chose how to respond
- We can only change our own behaviour- not that of others. We can't make people do what they don't want to do
- We own our own feelings- others don't make us feel bad, angry etc.

To help demonstrate what this means in practice, below are some examples based on what is in the statutory guidance. They have been devised by 'Foundation Years' www.foundationyears.org.uk

Democracy: making decisions together

As part of the focus on Self-Confidence and Self-Awareness as cited in Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- Managers and staff can encourage children to see their role in the bigger picture, encouraging children to know their views count, value each other's views and values and talk about their feelings, for example when they do or do not need help. When appropriate demonstrate democracy in action, for example, children sharing views on what the theme of their role play are could be with a show of hands.

- Staff can support the decisions that children make and provide activities that involve turn taking, sharing and collaboration. Children should be given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.

At Sir James Knott Nursery School we listen to children's and parents voice. Parent questionnaires are completed every time we carry out a parent consultation and parent's workshops. Children are given opportunities to make decisions such as what snack they would like to eat, what area of learning they are going to access etc.

Rule of law: understanding rules matter

As part of the focus on managing feelings and behaviour as cited in Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- Staff can ensure that children understand their own and others behaviour and its consequences, and learn to distinguish right from wrong.
- Staff can collaborate with children to create the rules and the codes of behaviour, for example, to agree the rules about tidying up and ensure that all children understand rules apply to everyone.

At Sir James Knott Nursery School we consistently reinforce our high expectations of children. 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. Throughout the course of the year we welcome visitors from the wider school community including the Police and Fire Service who help reinforce this message; sharing real life experiences which emphasise the importance of laws with our children.

Individual liberty: freedom for all

As part of the focus on Self-Confidence and Self-Awareness as cited in Personal, Social and Emotional Development and people and communities as cited in Understanding the World:

- Children should develop a positive sense of themselves. Staff can provide 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, mixing colours, talking about their experiences and learning.
- Staff should encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions, for example in a small group discuss what they feeling about transferring into Reception Class.

At Sir James Knott Nursery School, children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Staff invest a great deal of time and energy in creating a positive culture in which children feel safe and secure to make choices. AS a school we educate and provide boundaries for young children to make choices safely, through our provision of a safe enabling environment and effective teaching. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms. We believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their lives as well rounded and grounded citizens.

Mutual respect and tolerance: treat others as you want to be treated

As part of the focus on people and communities as cited in Understanding the World and managing feelings and behaviour and making relationships as cited in Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

- Managers and leaders should create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued and children are engaged with the wider community.
- Children should acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures; know about similarities and differences between themselves and others and among families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences.
- Staff should encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions.
- Staff should 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 and racial stereotyping.

A minimum approach, for example having notices on the walls or multi-faith books on the shelves will fall short of 'actively promoting'.

What is not acceptable is:

- actively promoting intolerance of other faiths, cultures and races
- failure to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregate girls and boys
- isolating children from their wider community
- failure to challenge behaviours (whether of staff, children or parents) that are not in line with the fundamental British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

Part of our school ethos and Relationship Policy is based on 'Respect'. Our Relationship Policy outline;

Policy Statement

At Sir James Knott nursery School, we believe that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met and where there are clear and developmentally appropriate expectations for behaviour.

"We are kind and helpful and friendly to one another, we look and listen carefully, we use a quiet voice indoors, we walk in Nursery, we look after our things, and make sure we keep out Nursery tidy, we make our teachers and our friends smile with kind words and actions, we love to be here and we make it a happy place".

Sir James Knott Nursery School recognises the importance of a whole school approach to the development of positive behaviour towards others providing strategies in promoting children's welfare, learning and enjoyment.

Our Relationship Policy refers to children, staff, parents and visitors to:

- *Enable all children to achieve their best ability in a safe, secure and caring environment.*
- *To develop a spirit of trust and understanding between all concerned to promote self-discipline.*
- *To promote a sense of caring, sharing and responsibility towards others.*
- *To positively encourage the children to want to display acceptable behaviour patterns.*
- *To encourage parents to work with us to promote effective patterns of behaviour.*