

Mickle Trafford Village School

British Values Statement

We Care We Learn We Belong

Promoting Fundamental British Values

Mickle Trafford Village School is committed to serving its community and recognises the ever-changing multi-cultural, multi faith nature of the United Kingdom. At school, we follow equal opportunities guidance which seeks to guarantee that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status or similar.

In line with The Department for Education guidelines we aim to actively promote British values in our school to ensure young people leave prepared for life in modern Britain. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance and understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law.

The Key Values are:

- **democracy**
- **rule of law**
- **individual liberty**
- **mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

Mickle Trafford Village School actively promotes British values through:

Focusing on and showing how the school's work is effective in securing these values and through challenging pupils, staff or parents who express opinions contrary to British Values.

Democracy - what do we do?

The principle of democracy is consistently reinforced at Mickle Trafford Village School and democratic processes are used to make important decisions within the school community - for instance, annual elections are held for School Councillors and Sports Leaders and responsibility posts are allocated through an application process. Records are kept of library van visits, sports and music competitions and the like to ensure children's places are allocated fairly.

The principle of democracy is explored in the curriculum as well as during assemblies and theme days. Our curriculum takes a global approach to learning by introducing themes from

the perspective of other people in other countries and also with historical context. Where appropriate, either during elections or via particular topics that lend themselves to meaningful discussion, opportunities are taken to teach children about different systems of government. Topics include historical studies such as Ancient Egypt, Romans or Benin or present day democratic and non-democratic systems and the advantages and disadvantages of both.

Pupils are encouraged to become involved in decision-making processes and staff ensure they are listened to in school. Children also have the opportunity to have their voices heard more formally through pupil questionnaires and surveys. Members of the School Council and other pupils work hard to promote tolerance and understanding through school events and fund-raising opportunities.

Our school behaviour policy involves rewards and sanctions which the pupils have discussed and agreed.

Mickle Trafford Village School pupils have had active involvement in the selection processes of new teaching staff and Associate Teachers.

The school has enjoyed a visit from the Parliamentary Outreach Team (April 2017 - teaching pupils about the role of parliament and how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process).

Rule of law - what do we do?

As a Rights Respecting School, each class starts the year collaboratively writing a class charter. This confirms the rights of all children but also their responsibilities in making sure all children's rights in school are upheld.

The importance of 'laws', whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Mickle Trafford Village School. Children are taught the value and the reasons behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils are helped to distinguish right from wrong, in the classroom, during assemblies, on the playground and outside school. School rules and expectations are clear, fair and regularly promoted.

Pupils are encouraged to respect the law and Mickle Trafford enjoys visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire Service, Ambulance, etc. to help reinforce this message.

The Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies set out a zero tolerance baseline for any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to pupils, staff and parents and carers.

The school has close links with the local police and PCSO who have visited and taken school assemblies. The children with responsibility as E Safety Officers and Road Safety Officers promote positive behaviours to keep children in all year groups safe and understand the laws surrounding these areas.

Through relevant curricular subjects, more particularly history, geography and PHSE, pupils learn about the reasons behind the setting of laws, the changes to law over periods of time and the reasons for change. Elements of the curriculum aimed at developing active global citizens identify how law is affecting populations, habitats and the decline in species across different continents. Children are encouraged to debate the validity of specific rule of law and in KS2 learn how they are able to petition to make amendments through appropriate and effective channels. Children understand to respect the law and the basis on which it is made and that living under the rule of law is intended to protect individuals, property and environments.

At times it may be appropriate for older pupils to consider aspects of both civil and criminal law and discuss how this might differ from some religious laws.

Individual liberty - what do we do?

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged, and given the freedom to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. They understand their rights according to the UNICEF rights of the child but also that they have responsibility not to deny these rights to others through inconsiderate actions of their own.

When necessary pupils are supported to take responsibility for their behaviour and our pastoral support reinforces the importance of making the right choices.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-safety teaching and PSHE lessons.

Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged. A strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying or prejudice is challenged and addressed. The school also operates a robust system of logging incidents.

The school has enjoyed visits from the NSPCC. There are contact details for ChildLine for children to access if they feel they need to.

Mutual respect and tolerance - what do we do?

Respect and tolerance are integral to the success and well-being of everyone at Mickle Trafford Village School. All stakeholders understand that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments. Through curricular projects children acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.

They learn that they have more in common with children around the globe than separates them. Children are taught that respect for the environment and other living things is also important.

Teachers organise visits to places of worship and visitors invited in to school to share cultures and practices. Links and visits are promoted with local faith communities and places of worship. E.g. Members of different faiths or religions are invited to school to share their knowledge and enhance learning within assemblies and in class.

Through the PSHE and RE curriculums pupils are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations.

During class discussion and debate children develop skills to learn to disagree in a respectful way and all answers and points are positively acknowledged as valid (no opinion is dismissed - although it may be challenged). Children are encouraged to develop their own critical thinking skills and become self-reflective.

Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudiced-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE and circle time activities.

Last year we took part in the *Global Learning* project with all our partner schools where the children were refugees and spent a day in another school or hosted children 'refugees' from another local school.

Our weekly celebration assembly includes rewards for good manners and respect during lunchtimes. Mid-day staff contribute to this by choosing a child from each class each week who may sit on the *Golden Table* and choose a friend to sit with them.

Mickle Trafford Village School strives to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our society.