

Appleton Wiske Community Primary School

Fundamental British Values Policy

We recognise our responsibility in preparing children for life in modern Britain and we are committed to ensuring that fundamental British values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of our school. We value the diverse backgrounds of all pupils, staff and families and celebrate these through a wide range of lessons and events, teaching tolerance and respect for each other, the differences in our community and the wider world. We are committed to:

- Giving children the opportunity to explore values and beliefs including religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on people's lives
- Encouraging children to explore and develop what engages themselves and others
- Giving children the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them can be helpful
- Developing a climate within which all children can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected
- Accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals
- Promoting teaching styles which value children's questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns
- Enabling children to make connections between aspects of their learning

All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts and, in particular, our RE and PSHE & C lessons, as well as our whole school assemblies, aim to provide opportunities to deepen and develop understanding. All pupils are encouraged to embrace these concepts with enthusiasm and are expected to demonstrate a good understanding of their application to their own lives. We aim to develop:

- An agreed sense of right and wrong with the confidence to stand up for what individuals believe in
- Honesty, respect and consideration for others and an appreciation of their uniqueness and qualities
- Responsibility for self and others

What are British Values?

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. Actively promoting 'British Values' also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views. At our school, values of tolerance and respect permeate all areas of school life. This engenders a climate within which pupils feel safe and secure and facilitates the fulfilment of potential. Pupil Voice plays an integral part in driving the school forward and school rules at different levels are seen as the foundation upon which this can be achieved. The government set out its definition of British values in the 'Prevent Strategy':

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

Democracy

Democracy is clearly evident within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, or by applying for a job as an E-safety officer or a Playtime Friend. Every other year our Year 6 pupils are invited to take part in a debate in the council chamber at County Hall. School Council representatives in each class are voted for. Each week in each class two awards are given out: the 'Outstanding Pupil' Award and the 'SEAL' Award for the pupil who has excelled in social and emotional aspects of learning each week. Our school behaviour policy involves lots of rewards for good behaviour. Our Curriculum offers many opportunities to discuss democracy – such as The Romans and The Ancient Greeks. It allows us to consider events in history where British values have been tested, like WW2. Children also play an important part in planning their learning at the beginning of each theme. They are given the opportunity to have a say about the things that they would like to find out about each topic. Cross curricular work gives children the opportunity to give their views, debate and argue, making well considered points and looking at both sides of an argument. A competitive spirit is also encouraged through our team system: Blue, Red and Yellow Teams. Every child competes to earn points for their house; the team point trophy is awarded every week in Celebration Assembly and on sports day a trophy is awarded to the winning team. Team captains are elected each half term.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies.

We have high expectations about pupil conduct and this is reflected in our Behaviour Policy. There are rewards for exhibiting good and caring behaviour and consistent demonstration of our values is recognised through weekly 'SEAL' awards. Children are taught to play by the rules in sport, with an emphasis on fair play. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Brigade are organised in order to reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make the right choices through the provision of a safe environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our Anti-Bullying, E-Safety and PSHE & C lessons. Whether it be through the choice of level of challenge, of how they record their work, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. Adults also help to give the children a sense of liberty and choice as we are helping them to 'learn how to learn' which we hope will help them be prepared for life beyond Appleton Wiske Primary School at secondary school and into adult life.

Mutual Respect

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around our vision that every child will be 'Happy, Healthy and Productive'. Pupils are encouraged to have respect for themselves and others and to work together to create an exciting learning community. We instil in our pupils the importance of being polite and courteous to everybody, regardless of their background. Our curriculum allows us to consider respect for our world and our environment. We take part in anti-bullying week and our Anti-Bullying charter is reviewed each year with pupils and staff. Every year we show respect for others by fundraising for a range of charities. We have supported events such as Children in Need, Sports Relief, Save the Children and Red Nose day.

Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE & C. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. We celebrate other religions and faiths through music – singing songs from different festivals and in different languages. Regular visits are made by local religious leaders and children have the opportunity to visit places of worship.

British History

Our school offers a range of curriculum topics which have strong links to Britain both past and present. As a school we encourage knowledge of current affairs that are significant to us as a nation. Across all year groups, there is a strong focus on the work of famous British figures both past and present. The children enjoy learning about people from the past and in particular those who have had an impact on the modern world and our community. A number of activities are planned in school to mark significant events such as a Remembrance Day Service and wreath-laying. The school is proud of its history and takes every opportunity to use first-hand historical evidence to find out more about its past.

Curriculum

Our curriculum prepares children for life in British society. This includes developing the understanding and use of money, effective reading and writing skills, collaboration and discussion to research ideas and concepts. Curriculum themes include historical and geographical study in the context of the United Kingdom as well as national and international comparisons. We value and respect all pupils' first language and culture whilst supporting families to feel welcomed and fully integrate them into the everyday life of the school.

Daily acts of Collective Worship

Our whole school assemblies are of a broadly Christian character and they uphold traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance. The whole school, including parents, carers and members of the community, take part in or enjoy celebrating the annual Harvest Festival and Christmas Carol concert.

Pupil and Parent Surveys

The views of pupils and parents are gathered through annual surveys. Any issues arising, for example regarding how safe pupils feel in school, are addressed by the Head Teacher, staff and Governing Body.

Revised: June 2025

Review date: June 2027

Appleton Wiske Community Primary School
Fundamental British Values Policy

Name	Position	Signature	Date
Neil Clark	Head Teacher		
Jane Quy	Chair Governors		