



# British Values at Maryland School



Maryland Primary School is a multi-cultural school that takes seriously its duty of laying the foundation for preparing children for adult life beyond formal education in Britain.

Maryland provides a platform for embracing difference by ensuring that children have access to wider experience beyond their local community through:

- 'out of school hours learning' (OSHL),
- sporting events and competitions
- a range of visits including yearly residential trip for Y6.

British values as set out in the Government's Prevent Strategy 2011 include:

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

Opportunities to explore and gain understanding of each concept are provided through all curriculum areas however Religious Education (RE) and Citizenship, Physical, Social and Health Education (CPSHE), History and Geography lessons are the platform for accessing deeper understanding and exploring practical examples of the five areas.

## The Rule of Law

**This refers to a set of rules which the government of a country expects its people to follow. The rules have to be fairly applied and enforced.**

Pupils are taught the value, responsibilities and reasons behind laws; they are also made aware of consequences of breaking the laws.

We promote rule of law through:

- school rules and policies e.g. Behaviour and Anti-bullying
- class contract signed by pupils
- drawing pupils' attention to rewards and sanctions regarding the rules
- code of conduct- this applies to staff, parents and all other adults on school premises
- visits from police and fire service
- 'Mindfulness and Calm' Initiative – children are encouraged to

Choose to breathe  
Ask for a moment  
Listen and think  
Make the right choice

The above ensure an atmosphere that allows teaching and learning to thrive.

## Individual Liberty

**This suggests the freedom of an individual to generally exercise their rights.**

There is an open door policy for all pupils to express their feelings and opinions with respect. There is also a 'kindness box' in our Kindness Zone, which encourages children to record and post any act of kindness experienced or witnessed, anonymously.

Pupils feel safe and supported in making informed choices at every opportunity. This is explored within the curriculum, especially in CPSHE, RE and during Critical thinking assemblies.

Content of our assemblies include historical figures in Britain and around the world who have fought for liberty and freedom of people. *Nelson Mandela, Black History Month, Martin Luther King assemblies etc* are planned into the Collective Worship rota.

### **Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs**

**This refers to a fair, objective and permissive disposition towards those whose faith and beliefs differ from one's own.**

History, RE and CPSHE are subjects through which themes with strong links to the United Kingdom are explored, in great depth. The scheme of work for RE covers the 6 local religions and in addition, pupils participate in the yearly place of worship week which provides opportunity for deeper understanding of faith and belief. Also, the whole school participates in diverse celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, Guru Nanak, Eid, Diwali, Chinese New Year, etc.

Language of the month is promoted in the school, this reflects the different languages spoken at Maryland. We celebrate British culture by holding events such as 'Heritage day'-*focus on Great Britain*, re-enactment of key periods in history e.g. rationing in WW2, cultural evening event, theme days, visiting theatre groups etc.

Procedures for dealing with incidents of intolerance are in place; this ensures that every member of our school and the wider community is mindful of attitude and disposition that can be construed as discriminatory.

### **Mutual Respect**

**This means having proper regard for an individual's dignity.**

Respect is a core value at Maryland School. Adults are role models to pupils, who are expected and encouraged to show kindness to each other. Our pupils learn that their behaviours affect them and others around them.

### **Democracy**

**A society characterised by equality of rights and privileges is said to be a democracy. The term also refer to a nation's electoral systems.**

Maryland pupils are given opportunity of practical experience of democracy in the yearly Head Boy and Girl elections. Candidates campaign for their post and hustings are held before elections take place.

Democracy is also promoted through sessions such as,

- class elections of school council representatives,
- the headteacher's 'tea party' for the year 6s where the views of the pupils are sought
- Head boy and Head girl presentation yearly at Governing body meetings
- voting for choices, ideas etc. in class
- Pupil feedback on yearly curriculum themes

### **Conclusion**

At Maryland School, we believe that by promoting fundamental British Values, every individual within our school community will continue to be treated with courtesy, fairness and respect. We hope that our pupils will continue to recognise the importance of equality, inclusion and diversity as they move toward becoming an adult in modern Britain.