



## **Moss Hall Nursery School British Values Statement**

British Values are defined by OFSTED as:

“Acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain”.

The 2012 Teachers’ Standards state that teachers must uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

These values support the national Prevent Strategy, put before Parliament in 2011 by the Home Secretary as a response to radicalisation of British citizens. The Department for Education has introduced a statutory duty for schools to promote British Values more actively from September 2014, and to ensure they are taught in schools.

The five key British Values are:

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

At Moss Hall Nursery School, we believe our actions, aims and values make explicit our fundamental belief in how the staff, children and families should treat others and expect to be treated. We use strategies within the Early Years Foundation Stage documents and beyond to secure such outcomes for our children.

We actively promote equality of opportunity for all and celebrate diversity on a daily basis. We emphasise the importance of our school community and believe everyone should be treated equally and with fairness and respect.

We work closely with parents to ensure the children are actively supported to have respect for themselves, for others and for the school environment.

We have a wonderfully diverse school community and welcome and value everyone, whatever their ability, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality or background.

Moss Hall represents and reflects the community we serve and we teach the children to be positive role models of the United Kingdom and of the wider world.

We work in an age appropriate way with the children to develop understanding of the five key values. In this way children are preparing to be active and informed citizens in modern Britain.



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### **1. Democracy**

Democracy means we make decisions together and make sure that everyone has equal rights and is treated equally. Each child's views matter, and it is important they are given the opportunity to share and collaborate to make decisions together.

- We ensure our environment encourages children to ask questions and we respond to them with respect. This approach develops children's confidence.
- We encourage children to share and work together towards common goals, and support them to find their own solutions to problems they encounter.
- We consult with children about changes to the environment. This gives children agency and a stake in their place of learning.

### **2. Rule of Law**

The Rule of Law means that rules matter in our society and children are taught that there are some rules that we need to follow. We help the children to understand cause and effect and to realise that actions have consequences. In this way they begin to understand the difference between right and wrong.

- We have an agreed set of golden rules which are posted around the Nursery School. These are highlighted and referred to during the settling-in process and children are reminded of them whenever appropriate. Appropriate behaviour is modelled by adults at all times.
- We explain to children the consequences of their actions, for example, thinking about how something they have done might have made another child feel. This approach enables a child to think of a way to make the other child feel better rather than just saying "sorry", which can be quite meaningless.



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### **3. Individual Liberty**

Individual Liberty means that everyone has a right to personal freedom. Children at Moss Hall Nursery School have freedom to make their own choices, voice personal opinions and portray their individual identity without fear.

- We prioritise child-led play and exploration, which increases their self-confidence and independence and leads to deeper level learning.
- We have a “planning in the moment” approach, which values children’s interests and fascinations. This gives them an enormous sense of engagement in their own learning.
- We model the language of feelings to children and explore them through play. This develops emotional literacy and is fundamental to a child’s self-confidence and awareness.
- We encourage risk taking play, which enhances children’s self-esteem and wellbeing and allows them to make decisions for themselves.

### **4. Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect means that we treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. We not only accept and respect difference but appreciate the value of diversity and the rich opportunities it presents.

- We talk with children about similarities and differences, creating a culture of understanding and respect.
- Staff speak to adults and children respectfully. This provides a positive role-model for children in communication.
- We listen carefully to the views of children and encourage them to ask questions and give their own opinions.



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### **5. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs means we understand that we do not all share the same beliefs and values. We respect the values, ideas and beliefs of others whilst not imposing our own on others.

- We celebrate important cultural events enjoyed by the children in our Nursery. This allows children to learn about the lives of other families in a meaningful context.
- We take children on visits out of the school enabling them to experience the rich and diverse world that we live in.
- We invite visitors in to the school to share their stories and talk about their faith with the children.

We believe:

- That everyone has a contribution to make to our learning community
- That everyone can succeed and it is our responsibility to promote this by celebrating achievement and having shared high expectations.
- That intelligence can be demonstrated in many different ways
- That it is the right of every learner in our community to achieve their potential
- That learning should be relevant and enjoyable.

We aim to:

- Enable children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Enable children to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- Encourage children to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely.
- Further develop tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions through an appreciation of and respect for all cultures.

Promoting British Values is, therefore, part of everything we do at Moss Hall Nursery School. Our learning environment and weekly plans ensure that we expose the children to a full range of experiences from around the world, including culture, music, art, literature, food, drawing on the rich religious and cultural diversity within the school. We use stories and regularly invite parents into school as a way of teaching the children about the world both locally and further afield. Children are actively encouraged to make choices throughout the day, knowing they are learning in a safe and supportive environment.

Our working practices ensure the school has a coherent way of promoting British Values and ensures that we would appropriately deal with any incidents where British Values are threatened by extremist views or behaviour.