

Promoting British Values



RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL
'EXCELLENCE FOR ALL'



Ratified by Governors: March 2020
To be reviewed: March 2022



Riverside Bridge School
PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

Review Frequency: Every two years

Date of ratification:

Date next review due:

Scope of Plan: This plan applies to all staff, students, governors and volunteers at Riverside Bridge School

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INTRODUCTION

Background and Rationale.

Though it has acquired a greater urgency in recent months, the importance of schools espousing British values is not new:

- The 2008 National Curriculum includes the following statement:

The school curriculum should contribute to the development of pupils' sense of identity through knowledge and understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural heritages of Britain's diverse society and of the local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions of their lives

- The 2014 Promoting fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools includes the following statement:

All school must meet the requirements set out in section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. Through ensuring pupils' SMSC development, schools can also demonstrate they are actively promoting fundamental British values.

- The 2011 Teachers' Standards state, as part of teachers' personal and professional conduct:

Teachers 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 Prevent Strategy recognises the importance of schools in counter-terrorism activities. More recently, concerns about the inappropriate actions of some schools were highlighted in the Birmingham Trojan Horse case, where a number of OFSTED inspections revealed a failure to promote British values adequately in some schools, meaning that young people in them were vulnerable to radical and extremist ideas. Consequently, all schools need a clear statement of British values and how they are promoted through the school's curriculum.

What is meant by "British Values"?

We believe that the following list exemplifies some of the values held dear by British citizens:

- Democracy
- Respect of the rule of law
- Appreciation of the rights of other citizens
- Individual liberty
- The promotion of opportunities for all
- Support for those who cannot, by themselves, sustain a dignified life-style
- Religious tolerance and respect for cultural diversity
- Treating others with fairness

- Participation with community life
- The contribution to, as well as the benefit from, cultural and economic resources

Although this list is not exhaustive, we believe it encapsulates the attitudes and values that Riverside Bridge School seeks to inculcate in its staff and young people.

How do we promote British Values at Riverside Bridge School?

We promote 'British Values' through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural education which permeates through the school's curriculum and supports the development of the 'whole child'.

We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all staff by providing a model of behaviour for our pupils.

'British Values' have been identified in Riverside Bridge School as:

Democracy

The ability to understand and communicate are the most important area of learning. We ensure that all pupils are given a 'voice'. This 'voice' could be using objects, words, photographs, pictures, symbols, touch cues, eye pointing or body gestures or language. We will try and teach democracy through empowering the students and giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that are important to them. As a school we value each 'voice' and will always listen and respond to demonstrate that Riverside Bridge promotes democracy for all students.

Riverside Bridge has an active School Council with members have been elected through a simple election process.

Rule of Law

We involve pupils in the setting of rules within the classroom and the local environment, helping learners to make decisions and choices that are acceptable.

Pupils are supported to learn to manage their behaviours through developing a range of self-regulation strategies. Staff ensure that they provide a consistent and predictable environment within the school, with clear routines and structures used throughout the day to support this. We support learners to understand the connection between action and consequence in an environment where they feel safe and secure.

Individual Liberty

We support all students to become as independent as possible in all areas of their learning. We inspire all pupils to understand that everyone has rights and responsibilities and we encourage all students to be responsible for their own possessions and the possessions of others. Some pupils will be able to take on simple responsibilities around the school, learning to do things independently is an important part of understanding yourself. We encourage the pupils to develop and show empathy towards others by participating in some charitable events such as: Children in Need, Comic Relief, and Disability Awareness Day.

Mutual Respect

At Riverside Bridge we promote all pupils to be included in activities by providing settings, location and a curriculum that are appropriate to meet all individual needs. Pupils have the opportunity to work with a range of people and all interactions with others are promoted with positivity. We promote our pupils to work with students from other schools and with adults who are able to support the delivery of a rich and broad curriculum.

At Riverside Bridge we believe that it is important to create opportunities for students to be part of and develop links with the local community.

Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

We support learners to understand that they are part of the school and the local community, where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Cultural appreciation is built into the curriculum and all students will have opportunities to learn, experience and participate in events and celebrations to broaden all pupils' learning experiences and awareness of others.

Riverside Bridge weekly assemblies enable our pupils to develop an awareness of themselves and others by covering themes such as: friendships, relationships, helping others, learning about people who can help them in the community and celebrating world events and a range of festivals related to different faiths.

The Religious Education curriculum supports our learners to experience a range of different faiths and religions through practical and sensory based activities.