

Community Pre-Schools: Policy and Procedure for Promoting British Values

Community pre-schools play an essential role in laying the foundations for respectful, inclusive, and democratic societies. In accordance with guidance from Ofsted and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, all early years settings must actively promote fundamental British values. These values—democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs—are not merely statutory requirements but are woven into the very fabric of nurturing communities. This policy outlines how our pre-school incorporates, demonstrates, and reflects British values through our ethos, continuous provision, curriculum, and daily practice.

Our community pre-school is committed to creating an environment where every child feels valued, safe, and respected. The promotion of British values is embedded throughout our curriculum, planning, and daily interactions. We believe that children should be encouraged to develop an understanding of right and wrong, respect for others, and a sense of personal responsibility and belonging in society.

Objectives

- To ensure that British values are understood and promoted by staff, children, and families.
- To equip children with the social and emotional skills to participate fully in modern British life.
- To provide staff training and resources to embed British values into daily provision.
- To ensure all children, regardless of background, feel included, respected, and heard.
- To foster an open and inclusive atmosphere that celebrates diversity and upholds shared values.

British Values Defined in the EYFS Context

- **Democracy:** Supporting children to understand the importance of making decisions together, listening to others, and valuing different viewpoints.
- **The Rule of Law:** Helping children distinguish right from wrong and understand the need for rules to guide and protect them.
- **Individual Liberty:** Encouraging children to make choices, express themselves, and understand their rights and responsibilities in a safe environment.
- **Mutual Respect and Tolerance:** Teaching children to show respect for others, appreciate differences, and develop positive relationships with people from diverse backgrounds and beliefs.

Procedures for Promoting British Values

Democracy

- Children are regularly given opportunities to make choices about their learning and play—for instance, selecting activities during ‘choice time’ or voting for stories at story time by show of hands or using picture cards.
- Practitioners encourage children to express their opinions and feelings, listen to each other’s views, and respect differing perspectives. This is done through group discussions, circle times, and collaborative decision-making.
- Feedback is sought from children and families to inform our practices and provision, ensuring a responsive, child-centered approach.
- Children are taught about fairness, the importance of listening to everyone’s voice, and how to handle disappointment or disagreement positively and constructively.

The Rule of Law

- Clear, consistent boundaries and expectations are established within the setting, and these are explained to children in an age-appropriate way.
- Children are involved in creating group rules, which are displayed and referred to regularly. This helps foster a sense of ownership and responsibility.
- Positive behaviour is modelled and reinforced through praise, encouragement, and clear consequences. Children learn why rules exist and how they keep everyone safe and happy.
- Staff use stories, role-play, and social stories to help children explore concepts of justice, fairness, and making amends.

Individual Liberty

- Children are encouraged to make choices about their activities, friendships, and self-expression, within a supportive and safe environment.
- Practitioners help children to develop confidence in expressing their ideas and feelings, using a range of strategies—including visual aids and emotion cards—to support all levels of communication.
- Children are taught that their opinions and interests are valued, and that they can say ‘no’ and set boundaries with others.
- Practitioners support children to develop resilience, self-esteem, and a sense of agency over their own lives.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

- Children are consistently encouraged to treat others as they wish to be treated, valuing kindness, empathy, and co-operation.
- The curriculum is enriched with opportunities to learn about different cultures, religions, and traditions—through books, visitors, festivals, and celebrations.
- Practitioners use positive language and model respectful behaviour at all times.
- Stereotypes and discriminatory language or behaviours are actively challenged, with staff providing support and guidance to help children understand why such behaviour is not acceptable.
- Resources and displays reflect the diversity of our community and the wider world. Children's home languages, beliefs, and backgrounds are celebrated and respected.

Staff Responsibilities

- All staff are expected to uphold British values in their conduct and teaching.
- Staff receive ongoing training on equality, diversity, and inclusion, including the practical application of British values.
- Practitioners are vigilant in identifying and addressing any signs of prejudice, bullying, or extremist views, reporting concerns in line with safeguarding procedures.
- Staff model respectful interactions and open dialogue, supporting children to question, reflect, and develop their understanding of the world.

Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

- Information about British values and our approach is shared with families through newsletters, displays, and parent meetings.
- Parents are encouraged to share their own experiences, cultures, and traditions with the setting, enriching the provision for all children.
- Concerns or questions from parents about the promotion of British values are welcomed and addressed promptly, ensuring a collaborative and supportive relationship.

Monitoring and Review

- The implementation of this policy is regularly reviewed by the management team, with input from staff, children, and families.
- Observations, planning, and curriculum delivery are monitored to ensure that British values are embedded in everyday practice.
- Action plans are developed to address areas for improvement and to share best practice throughout the setting.
- This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if required by changes in statutory guidance or best practice.

Examples of British Values in Practice

- Children vote for their favourite activities or stories, learning about democracy and collective decision-making.
- Turn-taking games and shared resources demonstrate the importance of fairness and respecting rules.
- Emotion cards and open discussions help children articulate and manage their feelings, developing individual liberty and self-awareness.
- Cultural festivals and themed weeks promote understanding, respect, and celebration of different faiths and beliefs.
- Problem-solving is approached collaboratively, with children encouraged to resolve disagreements through dialogue and compromise.

Promoting British values is not an isolated activity, but an ongoing commitment embedded in every aspect of community pre-school life. By providing a nurturing, inclusive, and stimulating environment, we enable children to develop the values, attitudes, and skills necessary to thrive as responsible, respectful, and confident members of society. Through the collective efforts of staff, children, and families, we foster a community where diversity is valued, everyone's voice is heard, and British values are lived every day.

