



## British Values & The Prevention of Radicalisation at RLA

### BRITISH VALUES

The Department of Education has recently reinforced the need *"to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."*

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At RLA, these values are reinforced regularly in the following ways:

#### **Democracy**

At RLA, democracy is taken very seriously. Children are actively encouraged to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly. Our elected child 'employment' strategy, responses to surveys and active **pupil leadership groups** are just three examples. Children are invited to apply for posts and children are able to vote for them based on their presentation. Children attend groups to ensure true representation of our children. Group members meet every week; then take the ideas from the meeting back to their classes for discussion, or contribute to assemblies.

Every child also contributes their ideas to the composition of their own **class charter** every year based on our widely consulted Academy expectations.

Class Charters set the expectations for classroom conduct and establishes the standards of behaviour children can expect from each other over the year ahead, in accordance with our democratic expectations, rewards and consequences

All children are asked to complete surveys which provides them with the opportunity to share their views and suggest ways in which RLA could be improved further.

Governors also talk regularly to children to establish their views as a way of ensuring that school self-evaluation is robust and accurate, and therefore effective in moving RLA forward.

#### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, RLA or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through assemblies and group discussions. Children 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.

Our RLA expectations, rewards and consequences which are displayed in all corridors and classrooms, referred to regularly and consistently upheld, are a practical example of this.

Visits from Magistrates and authorities, such as the Police and Fire Service, help reinforce this message.

#### **Individual Liberty**

At RLA, children are actively encouraged to make decisions and choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for young children to take risks and make choices safely. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely.

For example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenges, how they record their learning, participation in one of our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, children are given the freedom to make choices and make decisions.

### **Mutual Respect**

Respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of our community treat each other with respect.

### **Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

RLA is situated in an area which is becoming more culturally diverse, therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce this. Each year, the children explore a world faith alongside their learning about Christianity. By the time they leave RLA, all children have learnt about the beliefs and practices of people of the following world faiths; Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

**At RLA we actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including those expressing 'extremist' views.**

## **PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM**

**Radicalisation** is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

**Extremism** is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views. The Governing Body of RLA has a **zero tolerance** approach to extremist behaviour for all community members. We rely on our strong expectations to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our children protects them from exposure to negative influences.

RLA is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children. As an Academy, we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability.

All RLA staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

Children are encouraged to adopt and live out our expectations. These complement the key "British Values" of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.

Children are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through the SEAL (Social, emotional aspects of learning) assemblies and through the elected School Council members.

Children are taught how to keep themselves safe, at RLA and when using the internet.

Children participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background.

Children's wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and extra curricular learning opportunities.

Children are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.

## **THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM**

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The RE (Religious Education), PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of RLA. Children learn about all major faiths and visit places of worship wherever possible. They are also taught about how to stay safe when using the internet.

Our approach to teaching at RLA is built on our mission statement: **Respect.Learn.Achieve**; and our expectations:

- 1) Work hard and become resilient
- 2) Believe that we can achieve together
- 3) Be curious and learn together
- 4) Respect each other and our things
- 5) Be friendly, kind and helpful to all

Whilst our mission and expectations enable our children to become well-rounded individuals, we recognise the importance of, and work hard to develop, resilience in preventing children being vulnerable to pressures, including being drawn into extremist ways of thinking.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at RLA to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the Child Protection/ Safeguarding Lead Teachers.