

*Green Lane
Church of England*



Primary School

British Values Policy

Policy Title:	British Values Policy
Policy Author:	RGE
Date Approved by Governing Body:	April 2018
Review Due:	Spring 2020
<u>Date of Review</u>	<u>Description of amendments (if applicable)</u>

The Ethos and Values of Our School

Green Lane Church of England Primary is a rural school in the heart of Teesdale and at the centre of our local community. We offer a fantastic education based around achievement and success in a nurturing, holistic environment. At Green Lane we see the ultimate purpose of education as the promotion of “life in all its fullness” (St John’s Gospel, chapter 10, verse 10).

Here education is about more than just academic achievement; it is about developing young people who can flourish in all areas of their lives developing the intellectual, spiritual, moral and physical attributes, becoming proud and respectful members of our community. Our deeply Christian ethos and values are central to the experiences our children have each day as part of ‘Team GL.’

Green Lane CE Primary School promotes the basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. These are integral to our school vision and values and promoted through Collective Worship and Religious Education as well as Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE).

As well as actively promoting British values we also actively challenge pupils, staff and parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including ‘extremist’ values.

1. Being part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Green Lane CE Primary School. We value and celebrate being part of Britain and celebrate national events as appropriate.

The children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. This includes having a better understanding of Britain through learning about its coasts, rivers and mountains. We also teach European and world geography and identify where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world. Historically we identify and learn about key moments in British history and look at key historic figures that have shaped our past.

Through our curriculum areas, links with other schools, MFL, educational visits and trips, cultural art, visiting musicians from abroad, poetry and stories, collective worship and through example of adults in the school we aspire to give children:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law

- an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination.

2. Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Green Lane CE Primary School. Democracy is central to how we operate.

The school council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by members of the school community. The council has a say into how the school can be changed and in the past the school council has been involved in making changes within the school for example working towards the Parliament Award, organising fundraising events and increasing physical activity through 'Race around the World'.

'Pupil voice' is something that is actively encouraged to ensure that the children are involved and engaged in their own learning. Children are asked to respond and reflect on the teaching and learning they receive as well as make suggestions for the school council to consider.

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. They are encouraged to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

The opinions of parents and carers are welcomed at Green Lane CE Primary School and collected through methods such as questionnaires, surveys, parents' evenings and opportunities to comment on weekly newsletters.

3. Rules and Laws

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in collective worship and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses the school rules and class routines, principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe environment. Pupils are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken.

These values are reinforced in different ways for example through visits from authorities such as the police and fire service, during Religious Education when rules for particular faiths are discussed or in other areas of the curriculum where there opportunity to consider respect and appreciation for different rules.

4. Individual liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to refuse respectfully and express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe and supportive environment, we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely. Our pupils are also encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely through PSHE lessons and Circle time.

5. Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Due to our predominantly white British community the importance of promoting and celebrating a range of different backgrounds and beliefs is at the forefront of our school's aims and ethos. Our aim is to prepare children for the future and this drives us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. We want our pupils to know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences they may have.

Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect and develop an awareness and appreciation of other cultures.

Instances contrary to our values will be treated in line with our school policies and expectations.