

British Values Policy

Akrotiri Primary School



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Approved by:	Ben Turner	Date: 09.09.22
Last reviewed on:	09.09.22	
Next review due by:	09.09.23	

Aims of this policy

Being part of Britain and the wider community

At Akrotiri School, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Akrotiri. We celebrate British traditions and customs throughout the year; for example, Remembrance Day and the British National Days- St. Patrick, St Andrew, St David and St. George. We also value and celebrate national events, a recent example being the Proclamation of King Charles III. In addition, we value and celebrate the local traditions and festivals here in Cyprus.

Embracing British Values

British values and our curriculum

Children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Two examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

In geography, our topics ensure that children have a better understanding of what Britain is, by looking at aspects such as:

- Its capital cities and counties, its rivers and mountains.
- Where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world

In history, our topics ensure that children have a better understanding of Britain in the past by looking at different time periods and how these have influenced and impacted on the lives of people during that period and since.

Democracy

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

An example is our School Council. The School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by different classes.

Other examples of 'pupil voice' are:

- Children agree their class rules and the rights associated with these; all children contribute to the drawing up of the rules each new school year.
- Children have the opportunity to nominate and vote for others to represent them on different committees.
- Children are asked to respond and reflect on the teaching and learning with subject leaders.
- Children work with teachers and school staff each year to decide upon their class names, following a whole-school theme.

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, we encourage pupils to take ownership of not only our school but also of their 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 Rules of 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 assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses and sets its own class rules, a set of 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 and ordered environment, linked to our whole-school values. This is reinforced by the use of house points.

Pupils 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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service.
- During religious education, when rules for particular faiths are discussed.
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in PE, for example.

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- Choices about a learning challenge or activity.
- Choices about how they record their learning.

- Choices around participation in extra-curricular activities.

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our e-safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith

Akrotiri School is in an area which is culturally diverse and we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Mutual respect is at the heart of our aims and ethos.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever we may have, and to everything, whether it is a school resource, a religious belief or something else. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community should treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we at Akrotiri School enhance pupils understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- Through RE, PSHE and other lessons where we might develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures, for example in English through fiction and in art by considering culture from other parts of the world.
- Our Padre often joins us for assembly and sometimes leaders of other faiths help us to celebrate.
- Enjoying a depth of study during themed weeks e.g. Multicultural Week or Big Arts Week, where sometimes we will celebrate and enjoy learning about the differences in countries and cultures around the world (whilst at other times we might consider groups or individuals who might be vulnerable in some way).

Extremism

At Akrotiri School, we are fully aware of the challenges faced by all communities in combatting extremism. All of our staff are trained in Prevent Duty. Extremism is not a new topic in education, but schools have a relatively new statutory duty to pay “due regard to the needs to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.