

Promoting British Values

The Department for 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.

At Cygnets we understand that the society we live in is diverse and therefore, our curriculum and life within nursery reflects this. For our children, we aim to continually weave the thread of social, cultural, moral and spiritual British values throughout day to day nursery life. Underpinning this are the values and understanding of democracy, law, liberty, respect, tolerance, tradition and heritage. The ‘Equality Act 2010’ protects all individuals from discrimination and it is the Pre-schools duty to ensure that all individuals have equal access and opportunity to all that is on offer. Funding, including that for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and disadvantaged pupils, is used to target inequalities, to ensure equality.

We uphold and teach the children about British Values which are defined as:

Democracy

Rule of Law

Individual Liberty

Mutual respect

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

These values are taught explicitly through Personal Social and Emotional Development and Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning. We teach British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. We take the opportunities to actively promote British values through our daily activities. We also actively promote British values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values. Actively promoting British values means challenging children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values including extremist views.

British Values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy is embedded within the nursery. Children 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. Children also have the opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas and have their voices heard through small and large group times.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they are those that govern the nursery or the country are consistently reinforced throughout nursery life. The children are aware of the consequences of not following the rules and learn to understand the difference between right and wrong in all aspects of nursery life throughout the session and are taught the value and reasons behind the laws, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service are regular part of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

To encourage and promote good behaviour, attitude and work, we have devised a reward system. As a nursery, we are committed to praising children’s efforts. We endeavour to praise the children informally, individually, during the session or in front of the all the children at carpet time. Children are rewarded not only for achievement in curriculum areas, but for behaviour. Rewards are given in the form of stickers, marbles in the jar and certificates. Children’s achievements are also recognised in the home diaries and through our Open Door Policy with parents/carers.

Individual Liberty

The children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for the children to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Our children are encouraged to give their opinions and share these ideas with due regard for the feelings of others. As part of our PSED curriculum we place a huge emphasis on the social and emotional learning of our children. We celebrate achievements both at nursery and at home through the giving of certificates and stickers.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. We promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our nursery and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Children will challenge each other when not showing respect and encourage each other to be respectful and inform nursery staff.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing the children’s understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Members of different faiths or religions, especially parents and other family members are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance the children’s learning. Children have the opportunity to dress-up in clothes and try different foods from other cultures. The broader a child’s experiences, the more confident and effective they are likely to be at contributing to Britain’s diverse society. Throughout nursery life the children are encouraged to discuss differences between people such as their faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality (where appropriate). They also discuss differences in family life such as looked after children or young carers.

British Traditions and Heritage

We celebrate the role of Britain both historically and in the present. We want the children to have knowledge of and be proud of their British heritage and the cultural and historical traditions that we are renowned for the world over. This involves celebrating Royal events, Remembrance Day, festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, and Easter.