

# Consett Infant School



# British Values Policy

February 2023

The DfE have 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.”

At Consett Infant School we believe that the school curriculum and ethos already provides a solid foundation to encourage a child’s understanding and acceptance that we live in diverse communities with many different cultures and lifestyles.

We listen to children’s and parent’s voice. Parent questionnaires are completed and acted upon and we have active parent governors. Children also complete an annual questionnaire about their school experience and they are given opportunities to make choices and decisions through the School Council e.g. voting on how to revamp the book areas within their own classroom, voting on competition results, consulting their peers when selecting lunch food for special occasions, being involved with the recruitment of teachers etc. The members of the School Council are democratically elected by their peers each year through a whole school election process.

We consistently reinforce our high expectations of children. Children are taught the value and reasons behind our expectations (rules) that they are there to protect us, that everyone has a responsibility and that there are consequences when rules are broken.

Within school, children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young children to make choices safely, through our provision of a safe enabling environment and effective teaching. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms. The children are encouraged to think about their rights and responsibilities, as well as those of other children across the world, and reflect upon their actions.

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy is based on ‘Respect’. Our behaviour policy outlines that everyone has the right to :-

- Feel safe and a responsibility to ensure the safety of others
- Feel respected and a responsibility to show respect for others.
- To be supported both in their learning and everyday life and a responsibility to assist and support others.
- Be treated fairly and to treat others fairly.
- Move freely and safely, subject to rules.
- Have property kept safe and a responsibility to care for the property of others.
- Members of staff have a responsibility to provide good role models to all pupils by demonstrating respectful behaviour.
- Children have a right to be taught in a respectful manner.

As well as having British Values and Cultural Capital embedded throughout our school curriculum and ethos, we also offer specific interventions to promote skills in this area. Our Forest School and Commando Joe programmes are accessed by all children and British Values are developed by:

- Building and promoting positive relationships, including empathy and social skills
- Focusing on autonomy and responsibility, including allowing leadership, listening to the views of others and developing plans and strategies when solving problems
- Learning to manage emotions, express feelings and develop coping strategies
- Creating opportunities for personal challenge through structured play and goal orientated approaches

We aim to enhance children's understanding of different faiths and beliefs by participating in a range of celebrations throughout the year. Children have the opportunity to explore faiths and cultures that are different to their own through work linked to PSHE, RE and themed weeks within school. The broader a child's experiences, the more confident and effective they are likely to be at contributing to Britain's diverse society.