



# Statement of School Values

## Preparing Children for Life in Modern Britain

At Thomas Fairchild Community School we take very seriously our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain. We ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of the school. All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts and, in particular, our RE and PSHE lessons provide excellent opportunities to deepen and develop understanding. Children embrace these concepts with enthusiasm and demonstrate a good understanding of their application to their own lives.

The school makes considerable efforts to ensure children have exposure to a wide experience beyond their local community during which these concepts are shown, through for example, sporting events and a range of visits. Their strong rooted values-based understanding gives them an excellent platform for embracing difference.

At Thomas Fairchild, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

### Democracy:

Democracy is clearly evident within our school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and pupil questionnaires. The elections of House Captains, school councilors from each of the classes as well as a democratic vote about which charities to support, are based solely on pupil votes.

### The Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; Ambulance etc. are a part of our curriculum and help reinforce this message. The concept of the Rule of Law is also reinforced through teaching activities in our citizenship curriculum.

### **Individual Liberty:**

Within school, pupils 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 pupils to make choices safely, through of provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how they record, lunch options, of participation in extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

### **Mutual Respect:**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around core values such as 'respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. These ideas are reiterated through the school and classroom rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Additional support is given to individual children to help develop self-esteem and the concept of respect by our team of learning mentors.

### **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are regularly held. We follow the Hackney agreed syllabus for RE and use the SEAL materials to enhance PSHE teaching.

### **Our school and British Values creed states:**

#### **At Thomas Fairchild we:**

- Listen to others
- We are honest
- We are part of a democratic society
- We celebrate differences
- We are respectful
- We work together to get things done.

Each of these values within the school creed are linked the values above and we write our Good Book certificates (certificates of achievement for the week) based on one of these values. We have a value tree in our Heartspace and each week a child's picture is added to that tree to celebrate their positive reinforcement the school's values.