

Promoting British Values in Preschool

Following the publication of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, there is now a duty placed on early years providers to 'have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism' – this is reflected in The Prevent Duty, which is an advisory document issued by the Department of Education.

The promotion of fundamental British Values forms part of the approach to build children's resilience to radicalisation. The 4 values are :

Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual respect and tolerance

These values are already embedded within the principles of the Early Years Foundation stage and form part of our everyday practice with the children. Below are some examples of how we support the British Values and promote their understanding within the early years environment.

Democracy – making decisions together

We encourage children to listen to each other's views, talk about how they feel and to 'see the bigger picture' – for example, deciding as a group what the group should cook.

We provide an environment in which turn taking and collaboration are supported and expected; in addition, children's questions will be treated with respect and valued.

Rule of Law – understanding rules matter

The routines of the setting and behavioural expectations help the children to begin to understand rules and why they are important. Children are sensitively supported to manage their own feelings and to understand that their actions can have consequences. The children help to formulate the setting's 'Our Rules' poster.

Individual Liberty – freedom for all

Children are supported to develop a positive sense of themselves through the development of their self-esteem and self-knowledge. They are able to develop confidence in their own abilities through activities which enable them to take some risks and make their own decisions. Activities will also allow the children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, to think about differences and how people can have different opinions.

Mutual respect and tolerance – treat others as you want to be treated

The setting will create an inclusive culture in which everyone is welcome and valued, irrespective of faith, culture, race or disability. Staff will encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions. Stories, role play and activities will be used to explore diversity and to challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping.

All the above is further supported by the following policies – Admissions, Behaviour Management, Equality and Diversity, Inclusive Play and Safeguarding.