

# STEP Academy Trust

British Values Policy

September 2017

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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 Heathfield Academy, our ethos revolves around core values: **Passion, Urgency, Positivity, Aspiration and Commitment**. These are taught through all we do at our Academy at every stakeholder level.

**The Core Values determined by the DfE are:**

**Democracy:** Children have the opportunity to have their voices heard in the classroom and through feedback questionnaires or focus groups. Each year, we have a Children’s Parliament which meets every half term (see yearly planner) to discuss issues raised, ideas for spending raised money etc. Our children are genuinely able to effect change within the school. Every child in the Children’s Parliament is voted in by their class. Children have regular questionnaires/interviews (see yearly planner) where they are able to put forward their views about the school.

**The Rule of Law:** The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the Academy, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Heathfield Academy. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school set out in our Behaviour Policy. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws/rules are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

**Individual Liberty:** At Heathfield Academy, 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 children to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our eSafety and PSHE lessons.

**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. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

**Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:** Heathfield Academy is a diverse school. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

**The notion of Rights Respecting Schools** is being developed within our ethos and curriculum. Our planning is clearly rooted in our core values. We believe our core values are important for all. These are linked to a

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variety of situations which affect the students in school, at home, in their communities and worldwide. They give the students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of how they can make a difference to others and how everyone is entitled to their rights, explaining how this impacts on our lives.

Our weekly “What’s in the news?” assemblies (see termly overview) support our work in developing British Values at Heathfield Academy.