

## British Values Policy

The fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs are already implicitly embedded in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and are further clarified below, based on the Fundamental British Values in the Early Years guidance (Foundation Years 2015):

**Democracy**, or making decisions together (through the prime area of Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

- As part of the focus on self-confidence and self-awareness, practitioners encourage children to see their role in the bigger picture, encouraging them to know that their views count, to value each other's views and values, and talk about their feelings, for example, recognising when they do or do not need help.
- Practitioners support the decisions that children make and provide activities that involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration. Children are given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.

**Rule of law**, or understanding that rules matter (through the prime area of Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

- Practitioners ensure that children understand their own and others' behaviour and its consequence.
- Practitioners collaborate with children to create rules and the codes of behaviour, for example, the rules about tidying up, and ensure that all children understand rules apply to everyone.

**Individual liberty, or freedom for all** (through the prime areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, and Understanding the World)

- Children should develop a positive sense of themselves. Staff provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities, for example through allowing children to take risks on an obstacle course, mixing colours, talking about their experiences and learning.
- Practitioners encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions, for example discussing in a small group what they feel about transferring into Reception Class.

**Mutual respect and tolerance**, or treating others as you want to be treated (through the prime areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, and Understanding the World)

- Practitioners create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued and children are engaged with the wider community.
- Children should acquire tolerance, appreciation and respect for their own and other cultures; know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions.
- Practitioners encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours, such as sharing and respecting other's opinions.
- Practitioners promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural or racial stereotyping.

**At Rocks Lane Montessori, it is not acceptable to:**

- Actively promote intolerance of other faiths, cultures and races
- Fail to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregate girls and boys
- Isolate children from their wider community
- Fail to challenge behaviours (whether of staff, children or parents) that are not in line with the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs

**Date: November 2020**

**Our British Values Policy will be reviewed annually**