



# British Values at Stoneygate

## What are British Values?

British Values are a set of identified values that define what it is to be a well-rounded citizen in modern and diverse Britain today. These values allow us to create environments free from discrimination, intolerance and hate and help us to challenge prejudice and stereotyping, whilst strengthening relationships within our local community.

## How do we promote British Values at Stoneygate?

At Stoneygate Nursery School, British Values underpin our every-day practise, and we work hard to ensure that these values are embedded in all of our seven areas of learning, in an age-appropriate way. Teaching British values to a 2, 3 or 4 year-old, is about laying the foundation for their future understanding of important concepts like democracy, respect, and fairness. By ensuring that we create and foster a loving and safe environment for your child in which to learn and develop, we believe that these values will be naturally experienced and practiced through every-day, high quality, interactions with staff.

British Values are defined as the following:

- **Democracy**

A culture built upon freedom and equality, where everyone is aware of their rights and responsibilities.

- **The rule of law**

The need for rules to make a happy, safe and secure environment to live and work.

- **Individual liberty**

Protection of your rights and the rights of others around you.

- **Mutual respect & tolerance of different faiths and beliefs**

Understanding that we all don't share the same beliefs and values. Respecting those values, ideas and beliefs of others whilst not imposing our own onto them.

# What do British Values look like at Stoneygate?

## Democracy

Democracy is where we make decisions together. Like many of the other British Values, it's also about making sure that everyone has equal rights and is treated equally. Each child's views matter, and it's important they are given the opportunity to share and collaborate to make decisions together. At Stoneygate, this will be achieved by:

- Developing provisions that encourage and support children to collaborate and work together towards a common goal e.g. building a tower, playing team games.
- Creating an environment that allows inquiring minds to feel comfortable to ask questions in order to gain understanding and provide challenge.
- Actively encouraging children to be involved in decisions and make choices e.g. voting for a nursery rhyme or favourite story book, what to decorate the role-corner as, or making a choice between the fruit offered at snack time.
- Letting children be a part of making displays and other resources/creations within their classroom and around the setting.

## Rule of Law

The Rule of Law is about having an understanding that in our society, rules matter. Children need to develop an awareness that there are some rules that we need to follow, understand cause and effect and recognise that their actions have consequences. This also ties into distinguishing between right and wrong. At Stoneygate, this will be achieved by:

- Having children, where possible, to contribute to simple classroom rules and having these embedded, consistently, for all to follow.
- Staff modelling the correct behaviours and following the rules themselves, at all times, for children to aspire to.
- Providing opportunity in provision for children to discover how their actions can alter things physically.
- Developing empathy within children. This will be done through explicit PSED teaching e.g. through story telling or 'Think Equal' sessions, alongside taking opportunities as they arise, to explain to children how something they have done might have made another child feel.
- Developing an awareness within children, that actions have consequences and ensuring that a consistent approach to behaviour management, applicable to the children's developmental level, is applied.

## Individual Liberty

Individual Liberty focuses on freedom for everyone. The main point developmentally is to give children a positive sense of themselves. Promoting children's self-confidence and self-awareness is really important, as well as giving them the language and context to understand their own emotions. At Stoneygate, this will be achieved by:

- Ensuring plentiful opportunity for child-led play and exploration. Allowing children to explore their own interests rather than moving them towards a pre-made plan, is a great way to develop their self-confidence.

- Allowing children to have favourite things, and explore these e.g. letting them mix their own colours and explore the results, reading their favourite book or letting them gather up leaves and sticks in the forest that interest them.
- Encouraging risky-play. Risk-taking, in a safe environment, is crucial in developing a child's sense of confidence and awareness of what they're doing e.g. climbing higher up the slide, jumping off a balance beam or piece of playground equipment.

## Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Mutual respect and tolerance is best developed within an individual when they are exposed to an environment that encourages tolerance of all faiths, cultures, races and views. It is also of great importance to ensure that an understanding and celebration of our differences and similarities is actively promoted. At Stonegate, our pre-school children cover a lot of work on this value through their 'Think Equal' sessions. Alongside this, an awareness of tolerance and mutual respect will be achieved by:

- Ensuring that we take the time to help children understand their similarities and differences. This can be done through activities such as mirror observations, looking at photographs or through stories.
- Encouraging children to be aware of others and how they might be the same or how they may differ; this is key to respecting other cultures that might seem entirely different from their own background.
- Actively celebrating a range of different cultural events/celebrations. We have lots of different faiths and cultures to celebrate here at Stonegate and as well as finding ways to acknowledge these events in provision e.g. through art, small world, dress up activities, we enjoy celebrating through story, Stay and Play sessions or inviting visitors into our setting. This ensures that children are given the opportunity to understand and play a part in cultures that they wouldn't necessarily see in their everyday lives outside of the nursery.
- Promoting an understanding of the wider community in which our children live in order to see themselves as part of a larger, diverse group. This is often achieved through facilitating visits/visitors and exploring media.