



British Values Policy

At Episkopi School, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody in our community. We celebrate British traditions and customs throughout the year. We value and celebrate national events, the traditions and festivals of our foreign and commonwealth families and those here in Cyprus.

British values and our curriculum

Children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Two examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

In geography our topics ensure that children have a better understanding of what Britain is, by looking at aspects such as:

- its capital cities and counties, its rivers and mountains.
- where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world.

In history our topics ensure that children have a better understanding of Britain in the past by looking at different time periods and how these have influenced and impacted on the lives of people during that period and since.

We regularly have events days and community visitors into school to support and enhance our curriculum.

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Episkopi Primary School. Democracy is central to how we operate. An example is our School Council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised by different classes.

Other examples of 'pupil voice' are:

- children agree their class rules and the rights associated with these; all children contribute to the drawing up of the rules each new school year.
- children have the opportunity to nominate and vote for others to represent them on different committees.
- children are asked to respond and reflect on the teaching and learning with their class teachers and subject leaders.

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only our school, but also of their own learning and progress.

The Rules of Laws

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour

choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses and sets its own class rules, a set of principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. 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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service.
- During religious education, when rules for particular faiths are discussed.
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules such as in PE, for example.

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely.

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our e-safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith

Episkopi School is in an area which is culturally diverse and we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Mutual respect is at the heart of our aims and ethos.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever we may have, and to everything, whether it is a school resource, a religious belief or something else. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community should treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we at Episkopi Primary School enhance pupils understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- Through Religious Education, PSHE and other lessons where we might develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures, for example in English through fiction and in art by considering culture from other parts of the world.
- Our Padre often joins us for assembly and sometimes leaders of other faiths help us to celebrate.
- Enjoying a depth of study during themed weeks e.g. Multicultural Week or Big Arts Week, where sometimes we will celebrate and enjoy learning about the differences in countries and cultures around the world (whilst at other times we might consider groups or individuals who might be vulnerable in some way).

Extremism

At Episkopi Primary School, we are fully aware of the challenges faced by all communities in combating extremism. All of our staff are trained in Prevent Duty. Extremism is not a new topic in education, but schools have a relatively new statutory duty to pay "due regard to the needs to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism."