



**Discovery Schools**  
Academy Trust

# Discovery Schools Academy Trust

**D**iscovering joy in learning

**S**haring the journey for **A**ll our **T**omorrows

## BRITISH VALUES STATEMENT

The DfE have 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.”

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. These values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister.

At Discovery Schools Academy Trust all schools staff are trained and are fully aware of the importance of the promotion and reinforcement of British Values.

British values are regularly reinforced in Trust schools in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard in all DSAT schools. This is most usually achieved through School Councils which exist in various formats in each DSAT school. Election of School Council officers is organised through pupil vote for those pupils who wish to stand for office.

Every school within DSAT also elects children to serve as Members of Discovery Parliament (MDPs). Parliament is organised into the Cabinet, with ministers representing each school. Four Houses of Commons cover all aspects of the Primary School Curriculum. Discovery Parliament enables children from all DSAT schools to come together to debate issues of importance to their schools. There are structures which enable MDPs to put forward bills and to propose laws to improve areas of school life. Proposed laws then go to the House of Lords (Headteachers) and to the Trust Board for approval.

At least once each year pupil views are sought through questionnaire on a wide range of school matters including enjoyment of school, quality of learning, standards of teaching and behaviour and matters related to safety. We use the outcomes of surveys to make adjustments and improvements where necessary. In addition, DSAT schools include pupil voice in many aspects of policy development.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, including those governing the individual, the class and the whole school, are consistently reinforced. The children understand these laws these as rules. They are taught the reasons why rules exist and the consequences on the individual and our schools’ society as a whole if rules are broken. They also understand that working within agreed rules brings its own rewards.

At the start of each school year class teachers work with children to draw up a Class Charter of age appropriate class rules.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind British laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty**

Within DSAT schools pupils are actively encouraged to make personal choices, knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and by empowering them through education.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

Whether it be through choice of challenge or working partners, choice of how they record their work, of choice of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make a wide range of choices.

### **Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

Respect is a core value within which our Trust ethos and behaviour policy are rooted.

Through class, year group, school and whole Trust activities and discussions pupils have a good understanding of what respect means and how it is shown. DSAT school rules and behaviour policies thoroughly reinforce this ethos. Visitors to DSAT schools e.g. the Emergency Services and the county / city 'Respect Teams' also reinforce the importance of respect.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is encouraged through our Trust ethos of respect and through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. We provide our pupils with opportunities to experience the cultural diversity of Leicester and Leicestershire through fostering links between schools within and beyond our Trust where there is rich cultural and ethnic diversity. Within the RE curriculum Trust schools study the background and practices of the wide range of faiths practiced in Leicester and Leicestershire. Schools take their children to visit places of worship of these faiths and provide opportunities for their children to speak with and listen to faith leaders.

Discussions in RE and PSHE lessons at an age appropriate level give pupils opportunities to consider the reasons for and consequences of religious and racial intolerance and prejudice-based bullying.

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