



CITIZENSHIP POLICY **September 2025**

At Newlands Junior School, citizenship encompasses SMSC, RSE, British Values, School Values, Global Values, Personal Development and Learning Powers

Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, children need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. Citizenship can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support

Ultimately, our aims for all our children are that they should be safe, secure and happy in school. We believe they should have equal access to the curriculum, regardless of ability, gender, race or religion. We want them to develop an appreciation of the importance of responsible behaviour, courtesy and consideration of others. Whilst promoting their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in order to prepare them to become valued members of an ever-changing, multicultural society.

As a school, we constantly strive to reinforce our school values, whilst ensuring our children have respect for the protected characteristics within our society. The primary aim behind our citizenship curriculum is to play a key role in developing the culture capital of each and every child. Whilst crucially helping in preparing pupils for their adult lives, teaching them to understand how to engage with society and providing them with plentiful opportunities to do so. **We want our children to understand the importance of the community in which they live and to understand that they all have a role to play within their local community. As a school it is our aim to develop those links across all areas of our local school community.**

RSE Statutory Requirements

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education.⁴ They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools. Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) continues to be compulsory in independent schools.

RSE (formerly SRE) is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

(Please see separate RSE policy)

British Values at Newlands Junior School.

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, and these values have been reiterated in 2014.

At Newlands Junior School, our aim is to build an environment where all learners take pride in themselves, the school and their community. They should have respect for each other and achieve well. We maximise every opportunity to promote British Values in everything we do for all of our learners, regardless of their background. Our aims support all to develop as well rounded citizens.

Student Voice activities are undertaken to ensure that all learners exercise their democratic rights and feel part of big decisions within the school (e.g. School Council). By ensuring that behaviour expectations are clear within the consequences system, we aim to ensure that all learners respect and uphold the rules. This is done so that our children can see the difference between right and wrong.

Children are given the opportunity and freedom to be individual in their work. The freedom to be independent in their work gives our students ownership and allows them reflection time which will be a valuable skill for their future. Our citizenship curriculum is designed to develop reflection; our learners consider how their behaviours can affect the wider society.

Newlands Junior School actively promotes the tolerance of different faiths and beliefs whilst challenging those who express opinions that conflict with British Values.

Radicalisation and Extremism

Newlands Junior School believes and actively supports the view that all students should be protected from radicalisation and extremism. Our approach to this is in line with the Government's CONTEST (the counter terrorist strategy) and PREVENT (stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism) strategies.

Radicalisation is the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism, and in some, cases participate in terrorist groups. Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values.

Our 100% commitment to safeguarding student welfare means we are vigilant to monitoring vulnerability to radicalisation including:

- Family tensions
- Sense of isolation
- Migration
- Distance from cultural heritage
- Experience of racism or discrimination
- Feeling of failure

Although some skills will be taught through specific citizenship lessons, there should generally be a holistic approach wherever possible when teaching British values rather than concentrating on individual subjects. The curriculum provides many opportunities for discussing and promoting British values, for example citizenship may involve discussions about friendship and how we treat our friends. There are natural connections between this and the British values around mutual respect. Schools can use assemblies and collective worship sessions to address how British values are relevant to all pupils. British values are not easily 'taught'. Instead, they need to be lived through the school's ethos and values and should naturally flow through the school. Our values displays play a major role in promoting and evidencing British Values across our school. It will also be evident in the attitudes and behaviours our children demonstrate on a daily basis.

Democracy

- We provide opportunities for children to debate and discuss a variety of issues
- We encourage children to vote for things that they want to happen
- Children help make the rules
- We ensure there are opportunities to become leaders and take on additional responsibility
- We encourage children to express their views in pupil conferences, online pupil surveys and through the school council

Rule of Law

- Children are taught the difference between right and wrong and are encouraged to take responsibility for their behavior and make the right choices
- They are taught that the law is there to protect them and that breaking the law involves consequences
- Children are expected to follow the school rules that aim to keep children safe and promote a positive atmosphere for teaching and learning
- Children are encouraged to reflect on their actions and make things right
- We arrange cycling proficiency for the children in order for them to stay safe and understand the rules of the road
- The police and visitors are invited to school to help children understand the importance of living within the law

Individual Liberty

- Children are encouraged to put forward ideas for school improvement and what they would like to learn about in the classroom
- Children are elected to the School Council to represent their peers and make things happen
- Children are given the opportunity to express opinions and state preferences
- We learn about War, the British Empire and the Commonwealth
- Through clubs and residential trips children are encouraged to try new things and take risks

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

- We encourage children to be polite and helpful to others and lead by example
- We learn to respect other people and recognise that people may be different from us □ We promote equality and fairness
- In lessons we actively promote everyone's right to learn and create a learning environment which is conducive to this
- We ensure that everyone is made aware that bullying of any kind will not be tolerated

- We teach positive values by which to live and celebrate them in assemblies
- We teach children that we are all different, special and have a range of skills to offer

Our school promotes these fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and belief.

Through our provision we:

- Enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely
- Enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- Encourage respect for other people
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

(See Family of schools British Values Policy and Prevent Duty)

Citizenship Aims

At Newlands, we believe we play a crucial role in preparing pupils for their adult lives, teaching them to understand how to engage with society and providing them with plentiful opportunities to do so. All of our children are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance. We feel that we should provide our children with the opportunity to:

- Develop into responsible, respectful and active citizens who are able to play their part and become actively involved in public life as adults
- **Develop close links within our local community and understand the role we all play as members of this community**
- Understand the fundamental British values of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law and mutual respect and tolerance
- Understand that difference is a positive, not a negative, and that individual characteristics make people unique
- Promote an inclusive environment that meets the needs of all pupils, irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation
- Develop their character, as a set of positive personal traits, dispositions and virtues that informs their motivation and guides their conduct so that they reflect wisely, learn eagerly, behave with integrity and cooperate consistently well with others. This gives them the qualities they need to flourish in our society

- Develop confidence, resilience and knowledge so that they can keep themselves mentally healthy
- Enable pupils to recognise online and offline risks to their well-being – for example, risks from criminal and sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, substance misuse, gang activity, radicalisation and extremism, at an age appropriate level – and make them aware of the support available to them
- Enable pupils to recognise the dangers of inappropriate use of mobile technology and social media
- Understand how to keep physically healthy, eat healthily and maintain an active lifestyle, including giving ample opportunities for pupils to be active during the school day and through extra-curricular activities
- Develop pupils' age-appropriate understanding of healthy relationships through appropriate relationship and sex education

Implementing Citizenship

At Newlands, citizenship is taught within the RSE curriculum through our citizenship skills progression. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE). Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions. Across the, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Developing confidence and responsibility making the most of their skills
- Respecting the differences between people
- Respectful Relationships
- Families and People Who Care For Me
- Caring Friendships
- Online relationships
- Being safe
- Living in the wider world
- Maintaining a healthy lifestyle

Adaptive Teaching

The National Curriculum provides a broad and balanced education for all children. Throughout all teaching and learning at Newlands, we provide opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We do this by setting suitable challenges and responding to each child's individual needs, as well as choosing activities to suit each year group and lesson. Teaching is adapted to meet the needs of all pupils. Appropriate support, whether adult support or the use of manipulatives or other extra learning resources, is given to any child that needs it to move their learning forwards.

Parents Right to Withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of citizenship. Before doing so, parents are encouraged to talk to the class teacher and/or view the teaching resources in order to inform any decisions regarding withdrawing their child. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are

withdrawn from citizenship. The RSE curriculum will be shared with parents to ensure coverage if pupils are withdrawn. The citizenship policy will be shared with any parents who wish to withdraw their child.

Monitor and Review

We will continually review our objectives in relation to any statutory changes and in line with our school profile. Our objectives will sit in our overall school improvement plan and therefore will be reviewed as part of this process.