



## Promoting British Values at Hope

At Hope we endeavor ... **“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation 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.” DfE 2014**

### Democracy

Hope recognises democracy for all stake holders. Staff, members of the Local School Council, families and neighbours have a voice and so do the children. Opportunity to share thoughts and make suggestions are provided through questionnaires, open meetings and daily communication with each other. Our ‘soft’ opening and closing timetable gives families a time to speak with staff daily as well as open meetings hosted by the Local School Council and New Generation Schools Trust.

Children are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where children are safe to disagree with each other. Our Collective can be a time to explore difference of opinion and we have specific survey times where children are encouraged to share what they see, how they feel and what they wish for in school, whether with learning, aspects of school life / values or resourcing. In time we intend to develop a children’s governance for Hope. Children will learn to establish the views of many and how to present that effectively to others ... Principal, Local School Council, Staff team ... School staff have weekly meetings where immediate responses may be shared and, where it is deemed necessary, specific meetings will be arranged to discuss views and opinions further.

Children can nominate themselves and be voted in by their peers to represent each other on the Pupil Parliament, Staff and Parents/carers can nominate themselves and be voted by their peers to represent each other at the Local School Council.

Our commitment to inclusion and a voice for all is ensured by our staff team representing the views and opinions through Family Liaison, Community Partnership and SEN leadership.

### The Rule of Law, Values

At Hope we all have shared responsibility for the way we behave and the boundaries set. This is very important to the Hope ethos and day to day life in school. We work together to promote the Christian values underpinning the very core of Hope Community School and the importance of everybody modelling them. We refer daily to the strength of unity in these values in Hope Collective (assembly) as well as during the school day. All adults use the same boundaries and give consistent messages about the importance of conforming. Our Behaviour System is consistent across the whole school and is key to understanding the way it is at Hope, the law.

Children explore the reasons behind values and laws and how it is vital to respect that authority as an important part of keeping safe. Established community links with external agencies, such as the Police; Fire Service; local counsellors and local community support officers, keep visitors and visits a regular part of school life and help reinforce our high expectations of behaviour both inside and outside school.

### Individual Liberty, The Right to make a Choice

Hope children are actively encouraged to take risks and make choices. They do this knowing that they are

in a safe and supportive environment where it is ok to make mistakes. We provide boundaries to enable children to make choices safely, they are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms. Our Behaviour System is built on reflecting on choices made and refer to good, great and outstanding choices as well as poor and bad choices with the opportunity to 'have a think' when things go wrong.

Challenge and choice are key parts of all our lessons, we encourage pupils and staff to 'take a risk' in their learning in a safe, managed environment. Exploring personal safety, incidents, potential hazards and the possibility of outside influences teach children the responsibility they have towards themselves and others and how important it is to make good choices. Children are given the freedom to make choices in each aspect of school life

### **Mutual Respect**

The Christian values which lay at the heart of Hope school ... Welcome, Hospitality, Generosity, Friendship, Respect, Kindness, Joy, Wisdom, Uniqueness, Creativity, Humility, Faith, Trust, Diversity, Courage, Honesty, Equality, Challenge and Forgiveness ... instil deep understanding and intrinsic recognition of mutual respect. Our values underpin all aspects of school life and are upheld by all members of the Hope Community. We believe this to be key when supporting the growth and development of responsible young people. Our values are evident in learning, our Behaviour Policy and consistently recognized and praised when observed around school.

Developing a sense of interest and tolerance ensures children are encouraged to respect themselves and to respect the rights of other people. Learning goals and achievements are celebrated and shared. Children demonstrate pride in each other's achievements, as well as their own, and are ready to congratulate and praise.

### **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

We believe that children should have a clear understanding of their place in this culturally diverse society and should be given opportunities to experience diversity. We want to inspire children to be people who not only value their community but have the desire, ability and tools to transform and enrich it through innovation and aspirational visions. Everyone is valued at Hope, irrespective of faith or anything else.

Hope's Christian values of hospitality, generosity, kindness and respect for others are embedded in everyone and in everything, every day. We have created spaces for children and the school to explore their own personal beliefs and faiths in a safe place where they can ask the big questions of life. We present a Christian view while allowing children the freedom to ask questions and decide for themselves.

We follow the agreed Bexley RE syllabus which has Christianity at the core whilst also ensuring learning develops understanding and knowledge of world faiths and beliefs. Our RE learning, Circle Time, Collective and openness for discussion foster an ethos of acceptance, of the positivity of working with others and of respecting others opinions regardless of our own beliefs. We work with members of different faiths, we have a range of faiths present in the school community and are able to explore opportunities to visit special buildings and places of worship for a range of faiths.

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