****

**British Values Policy**

The government originally set out its definition of British values in their 2011 Prevent Strategy. In November 2014, Departmental advice for maintained schools stated;

‘Schools should 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.’

‘Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools’. Department for Education

The fundamental British Values are already implicitly embedded in the 2014 Early Years Foundation Stage which we follow.

At The Ark Nursery, we promote British Values in a range of ways.

**Democracy-** making decisions together

The Ark Nursery values children’s, parents, and the staff’s opinions. Children are given opportunities to make decisions such as choosing their favourite story during Carpet times, choosing what activities they would like to do or choosing what drink they will have at snack. Our nursery Positive Behaviour Policy is clear that children will feel safe and secure in an environment where positive behaviour is promoted. As we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, children have the opportunity to choose how long to spend at an activity and are involved in activities that involve turn taking, sharing and collaboration. The Ark Nursery focusses on self-confidence and self-awareness (PSED) and the children know their views count and they are encouraged to value each other’s views

**Rule of Law** – understanding rules matter as cited in Personal, Social and Emotional Development

At the Ark Nursery, we consistently reinforce our high expectations of children. We encourage and support our children to make informed decisions relevant to their experiences, to make good choices such as choosing appropriate clothing for the weather. Staff can ensure that children understand their own and others’ behaviour and its consequences and learn to distinguish right from wrong. Staff help children to learn about the consequences of their actions and behaviour by interacting at an appropriate level for individuals to understand. Children understand that we have to follow rules and that they are there for a reason.

**Individual Liberty** – freedom for all

We support children to develop a positive sense of self and recognise that others may have different opinions to them. Staff encourage children to talk about their feelings during small group times and reflect on their similarities and differences through cultural events. We support individual learning through recognising children’s patterns of behaviours (schemas) and characteristics of effective learning by developing individual plans and taking into account the children’s interests. One way children’s self-esteem is promoted is through outdoor activities and Forest school. We focus on self-confidence & self-awareness (PSED) and people & communities (UTW) Children develop a positive sense of themselves. They should develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities and are encouraged to reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions

**Mutual Respect and Tolerance** – treat others as you want to be treated

At The Ark nursery we ensure children acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures; know about similarities and differences between themselves and others and among families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences. Throughout the year, we purposefully provide resources and experiences that reflect cultures, traditions, and events for example: Christmas, Harvest, Eid, Diwali, Easter and Chinese New Year. The children engage with the wider community through visits and outings. Stereotypes are challenged.

This policy is reviewed annually.