

**Outcomes
First
Group.**



**Benton House
SCHOOL**

Fundamental British Values Policy

Benton House School is safe, supportive and exciting place to be. We provide an environment that is stimulating and nurturing, balanced with structure and boundaries. This is to ensure that your child can learn and develop academically, socially and emotionally. We encourage children to have a clear understanding of school expectations and to set their own personal targets and goals. We offer a caring atmosphere where all children are valued and encouraged to respect themselves and each other.

When we come to Benton House School, we enjoy the present and we follow the following core values: Curiosity, Ambition, Respect and Empathy. This, partnered with positive relationships and nurturing principles, underpins all that we do.

We always strive to provide the very best educational environment in which the children can all achieve and experience success. We are fortunate to have a very caring and committed staff, and children who are friendly and eager to learn

At Benton House School, we develop and promote British Values throughout our school and within our curriculum.

“We want every school to promote the basic British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.” *Lord Nash*

A key part of our plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

British Values

- The Rule of Law
- Democracy
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs

To do this our children will develop.

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- An acceptance that people having different faiths and beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of discriminatory behaviour
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination

The vision statement and aims of the school clearly reflect these values, and the whole school strives to uphold them.

Vision Statement

Our school is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment. We value and promote shared personal achievement, high standards and respect for the individual. We believe that by working together we build understanding of one another and develop the self-esteem of every individual.

This vision statement represents the principles that we strive towards at Benton House School. Throughout our school we hope to show how we translate these aims into practice.

Our School Aims

Our aims stand upon three fundamental principles.

- To provide every child with the life skills to become successful learners who reach their full potential.
- To provide a safe, supportive, stimulating and inclusive environment where every child is recognised, cared for, encouraged and valued.

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- We will actively ensure the involvement of the whole community, particularly families, who have a vital role in supporting their children's education. This partnership will encourage healthy and positive attitudes motivating children to become life-long learners.

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Benton House. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs during the year, for example, Harvest Festival during the Autumn term and trips to the pantomime in at Christmas. We also value and celebrate national focusses, examples being Anti-Bullying Day and Safer Internet Day, with many more opportunities planned in throughout the year to collaborate with the wider community and world e.g. Children in Need.

Further to this, children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Two specific examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

Geographically: Our rivers, coasts and seaside holiday topics ensure that children have a better understanding of what Britain is, learning more about:

- its coasts, rivers and mountains
- where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world

Historically: Key moments in British history are studied in the topics such as 'London's Burning' and significant historical figures.

The table below is an indication of where we can find evidence to show that British Values are an intrinsic part of school life at Benton House School.

British values are also taught explicitly once per half term as part of the PSHE curriculum.

- Democracy (Aut 2)
- The rule of law (Spr 1)
- Individual liberty (Spr 2)
- Mutual respect (Sum 1)
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs (Sum 2)

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Walverden Primary School. Democracy is central to how we operate.

An obvious example is our School Council. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret using ballot boxes etc. Made up of one representative from each class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. The council has its own budget and is able to effect change within the school.

Democracy

Another example of 'pupil voice' is:

- children are asked to respond and reflect on the teaching and learning they receive as well as make suggestions for the School Council to consider.

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 their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated daily by our pupils.

Parents' opinions are welcomed at Benton House School through methods such as questionnaires, surveys at parents' evenings and opportunities to comment on whole school matters e.g. After school provision.

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

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class discusses the school rules and class routines, principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member can learn in a safe and ordered environment. These rules are displayed in each class along with the Code of Conduct of the school.

The Rule of Law.

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
- Cycling Proficiency lessons enable children to understand the rules of the road and the potential dangers encountered should they break those rules.
- During Religious Education, when rules for faiths are thought about
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules

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, we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- choices about how they can improve their learning
- choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities

Individual Liberty

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely. By teaching the children how to manage and understand emotions they will be motivated and equipped to:

- Be effective and successful learners
- Make and sustain friendships
- Deal with and resolve conflict evenly and fairly
- Solve problems with others by themselves
- Manage strong feelings such as frustration, anger or anxiety
- Be able to promote calm and optimistic states that promote the achievement of goals
- Recover from setbacks and persist in the face of difficulties
- Work and play cooperatively
- Compete fairly and win or lose with dignity and respect for all competitors
- Recognise and stand up for their rights and the rights of others
- Understand the value the differences and commonalities between people, respecting the rights of others to have beliefs and values different to their own.
- To respect and value our world, and the things, both material and alive that exist within it.

Mutual Respect

We have high expectations of achievement and behaviour. Children and staff are polite and kind. We believe everyone has their own special gifts and we are expected to use them.

We listen and respect each other. We teach the children that conflict will be dealt with calmly and fairly. All members of the school family are valued equally. We celebrate lunch time behaviour and taking care of our school environment and celebrate each other's achievements whether that be in or out of school through our weekly Celebration Assemblies.

Teachers plan exciting, interesting, challenging and innovative lessons where everybody is expected to do their best and respect others.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Our central aim to prepare children for the future drives us towards ensuring that our pupils can live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. This will be particularly necessary in a future where due to technological advances will make the 'world a smaller place.'

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices influence their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect.

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Specific examples of how we at Benton House School enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- Through Religious Education, PSHE and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures – in English through fiction and in art and music by considering cultures from other parts of the world.
- Celebrating cultural differences through assemblies, themed weeks, noticeboards and displays.

Children are encouraged to share their own experiences when celebrating their own faith. Activities within school support both children and adults of different or no faith, the children are taught respect and tolerance of these groups, and the opinions of the groups are considered with all activities. Whilst instances contrary to our values are relatively rare, each is treated seriously in line with our policies and expectations.

