



British Values

TO BE REVIEWED REGULARLY BY THE GOVERNING BODY (June 2026)

Somerville Nursery School
"Aiming High Together"

Fundamental British values Schools

"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" (DfE, 2014)

Democracy

At Somerville Nursery School everyone is treated equally and has equal rights. We support children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) by giving them opportunities to develop their self-confidence and self-awareness, to make choices and decisions about what they want to explore and how they're going to use the resources that we have made accessible to them. For example, children can select and use resources as they choose and are encouraged to share their ideas, take turns, collaborate and make decisions together. These are essential skills to develop now and for later life.

Rule of law

The rule of law is about children learning that rules matter. Our nurturing approach to personal, social and emotional development ensures that children learn to understand this element of British Values. They learn to manage their own feelings and behaviour as part of their work and play in class. As scenarios occur and children are supported to manage their behaviour by skilled and sensitive staff. This includes learning right from wrong, behaving within agreed and clearly defined boundaries and where necessary dealing with the consequences. Our class rules are age and stage appropriate so that they are accessible for all and the children are supported to understand them.

Individual Liberty

This value is embedded in the work that we do on the development of our children's personal, social and emotional understanding. We focus on children's self-confidence, self-awareness and their understanding of the diversity of people and communities. This begins with supporting children to have a positive sense of themselves and developing confidence in their own abilities. Children are encouraged to develop and express their own opinions in appropriate ways and to understand that we are all free to have different opinions.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Mutual respect and tolerance is where we learn to treat others as we wish to be treated. We also learn how to be part of our school and wider community. Children are supported in managing their feelings and behaviour which helps them to form appropriate relationships with their peers and adults. We help children to appreciate and respect their own culture and the culture of others. We can help them to explore similarities and differences between themselves and others; among families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions; and to share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences. Children need to have opportunities to practise tolerance and to challenge stereotypes and this is explored through our work in school.