



### **Thomas Harding Junior School Statement on British Values**

British values are central to the school ethos and are reinforced through the Thomas Harding ASPIRE values, which underpin our curriculum: aspiration is at the heart of all we do. At Thomas Harding we are completely committed to ensuring that our school is highly inclusive and that every member of our school community is valued and celebrated, whilst working within the core framework of essential British values.

Children are encouraged to play an active role in their learning journey by exploring possibilities and opportunities and by asking questions that extend their knowledge and understanding. Children are encouraged to think independently and work with partners and groups in all curriculum areas to promote the positive use of communication skills. We aim to give our children a full and clear insight into what being British is all about, to celebrate British culture and heritage and to give clear insight into 21st Century Britain so that all children are fully prepared for their life long journey of learning and understanding. Furthermore, as a culturally diverse school, our children are well equipped with the suitable knowledge, behaviours and attitudes that allow them to live harmoniously.

We use 'outdoor learning' to extend children's experiences beyond the classroom and use our vast and varied school grounds, as well as the local area, to engage children in irresistible learning.



## Fundamental British Values

### *Individual liberty*

#### **Aspiration** –

We want all of our children to reach their full potential, regardless of their starting points and their backgrounds. We celebrate diversity and are confident in our understanding and belief that every child deserves the very best opportunities to flourish and achieve so that they are thoroughly prepared for their next stage of learning; in secondary school and beyond. Aspirations are limitless and they encourage us to strive for more.

#### **Pride**

Children are encouraged to voice their opinions and to shape their thinking through enhanced knowledge and understanding. We are proud of who we are and individualism is part of our core school aims and to this end we shape our learning towards a personalised approach, thus ensuring that all children grow and learn at a rate and in a way that best meets individual need. Being individual is important and we encourage children to express their feelings through dance, poetry, music, art and drama. We welcome all children and families into our school without prejudice and celebrate individualism.

### *The rule of law*

#### **Success** -

Success is best achieved in an environment that has boundaries and high expectations of behaviour, alongside positive praise and inspirational opportunity. Self discipline, responsibility and the role of British law is reinforced in the school through our curriculum and the use of positive behaviour strategies so that children are fully prepared for life in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Britain. We want our children to automatically self regulate their behaviour and to have the skills and confidence to make appropriate behaviour choices as they go through life, including their online activity. We want to ensure that all of our children fully understand the need to behave safely and responsibly online and that online behaviour needs to fall within the boundaries of British law in the same way as all other activity.



## **Democracy**

**Pride** - All members of the school community have the opportunity to share their views in order to move the school forward. This might take the form of questionnaires, liaison meetings, school council/pupil voice, citizenship activities and class discussions. Each year we hold elections for our year 6 House and Sports Captains, and also for the Cyber Busters and School Council teams. We seek to run a school that is democratic and fair, where the views of all are listened to and recognised when determining the way forwards.

**Integrity**- Pupils are taught speaking and debating skills throughout the school so that they are well prepared to engagement with modern life and feel sufficiently confident and self-assured to present their own point of view without hesitation. The principle of democracy is explored in History, English, PSHE and RE as well as in assemblies. Students are also encouraged to participate in the school's mock elections that take place alongside national elections.

## **Mutual respect**

**Integrity** - At this school we recognise that respect, honesty and trust are underlying principles to any positive relationship. Respect can manifest in a number of ways and we lead by example, respecting all of our families and children and working hard to earn that respect in return. Children display excellent manners and behave in a way that is respectful to adults and to each other as they move around the school and are in learning situations. Children are encouraged to reflect upon their contribution and role in the collective well-being of the school and wider community. Children know that their behaviour has an effect on others and that by respecting other people we together build a happy and safe environment for all.

**Resilience** – At Thomas Harding, we teach our children the value of hard work and perseverance. Our children develop a growth mind-set and an ability to be resilient in the face of setbacks and difficulties. They understand that learning is a not necessarily a straight path and that developing a resilient character is essential for success. We believe that one of the most effective ways to develop resilience is to work collaboratively and to learn how to work as an effective team that can learn from one another. Our pupils are encouraged to reflect on the way that they and their peers learn, and to develop strategies to develop their resilience and ability to self-regulate their behaviours for the benefit of all learners, both in the classroom and the wider school community.



## ***Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs***

**Equality-** We are proud to be a diverse school and our children happily interact with a variety of faiths, cultures and backgrounds, which enhances their understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. Through our curriculum, we promote deeper understanding of different faiths and beliefs, we challenge stereotypical view points and children are encouraged to share their own experiences and learn from others. Visitors from and visits to local places of worship such as the church and the mosque help children to learn from and about different faiths in their community and in the wider world. We celebrate the diversity of our school through parental engagement, community partnerships, our curriculum, collective worship, displays, celebration of events and newsletters. Every child is equal at Thomas Harding Junior School and every child matters to us, whatever their starting points and whatever their faith or belief.

***Thomas Harding Junior School actively challenges any pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values. We are vigilant to any extremist attitudes or behaviours which might give cause for concern and will always notify appropriate authorities for advice.***