



Introduction

At Sycamore Hall Preparatory School, we believe that a strong education is founded not only upon academic achievement, but also upon character, good manners, personal responsibility, respect and a genuine understanding of the world around us. We aim to develop confident, courteous and independent young people who understand the importance of treating others with dignity and respect, taking responsibility for their actions and making a positive contribution to their school, their community and the wider world.

We actively promote the fundamental British values of:

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

These values are embedded throughout school life. They are taught explicitly where appropriate, but are also reflected in our curriculum, assemblies, pastoral care, relationships, expectations for behaviour and the daily life of the school.

Our approach is rooted in the belief that children thrive when they are given clear boundaries, high expectations, encouragement and the opportunity to develop independence and responsibility.

Our Vision

Sycamore Hall Preparatory School is committed to providing a safe, secure, stimulating and nurturing environment in which every child is encouraged to achieve their potential.

We value:

- High standards of achievement and behaviour
- Good manners and courtesy
- Respect for others
- Personal responsibility
- Honesty and integrity
- Independence and self-confidence
- Kindness and consideration
- A strong sense of community
- Respect for our country's history, traditions and institutions
- An appreciation of different cultures, faiths and beliefs
- Service to others

We encourage our pupils to be curious, open-minded and independent thinkers while understanding that individual freedom comes with responsibility. Through our education, we seek to prepare children for the responsibilities and opportunities of life. We want our pupils to grow into responsible, caring and confident young people who understand their place within their community and the wider world and who are able to make a positive contribution to society.

Democracy

At Sycamore Hall, pupils are encouraged to understand that democracy provides individuals with a voice and an opportunity to influence decisions that affect them. Children are taught to express their views clearly and respectfully and, equally importantly, to listen to the opinions of others. They learn that people may hold different opinions and that disagreement can be expressed courteously.

Democracy is developed through:

- Class discussions and debates
- Opportunities for pupils to express their views and ideas
- Pupil voice and school council activities
- Voting and democratic decision-making where appropriate
- Discussions about school rules and expectations
- Opportunities for pupils to contribute ideas about clubs, activities and aspects of school life
- Learning about Parliament, elections and democratic institutions
- The History curriculum and the study of Britain's development as a democratic society
- World Religion and PSHE lessons
- Discussions about current affairs and important issues, presented in an age-appropriate manner
- Learning about how citizens can contribute to their communities

Pupils learn that having a voice also carries responsibilities. They are encouraged to consider the views of others, accept the outcome of fair decisions and understand that democratic processes depend upon participation, respect and honesty.

Parents' views are welcomed through parents' evenings, meetings and opportunities to provide feedback on matters affecting school life.

We also encourage pupils to understand the importance of contributing to the wider community. Through charitable activities and fundraising, children learn that they can use their time, effort and resources to help others.

The Rule of Law

At Sycamore Hall, we believe that clear expectations, consistency and fairness are essential to a happy and successful school community.

From an early age, pupils learn that rules and laws are an important part of a civilised society. They understand that rules exist to protect individuals, maintain order and enable everyone to live and work together safely.

Children are taught:

- The importance of following school rules

- The difference between right and wrong
- Why rules and laws are necessary
- That rules apply fairly and consistently
- That rights are accompanied by responsibilities
- That actions have consequences
- That laws protect individuals and communities
- The importance of honesty, fairness and integrity
- The role of the police, courts and other public services
- How the rule of law supports a safe and orderly society

School rules and expectations are regularly reinforced throughout the school day.

Pupils are encouraged to understand not simply what the rules are, but why they exist. Our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies promote fairness, accountability and the appropriate resolution of conflict. Where disagreements occur, pupils are encouraged to reflect upon their actions, understand the effect of their behaviour on others and, where appropriate, take steps to put things right.

Sycamore Hall has a clear expectation that aggression, abuse, bullying or violence of any kind is unacceptable.

We also believe that children respond positively to encouragement and recognition.

Pupils are praised and rewarded not only for academic achievement, but also for effort, good manners, kindness, responsibility, perseverance and positive behaviour.

Individual Liberty

At Sycamore Hall, we encourage pupils to become increasingly confident, independent and responsible individuals.

We believe that children should have opportunities to make appropriate choices, develop their own interests and learn to take responsibility for their decisions within a safe and supportive environment.

Individual liberty is therefore taught alongside self-discipline and personal responsibility. Pupils learn that being free to make choices does not mean that our choices are without consequences or that they should disregard the rights and wellbeing of others.

We promote individual liberty through:

- Encouraging pupils to make appropriate choices
- Providing opportunities to take part in clubs, activities and wider school life
- Supporting children to develop their own interests and talents
- Encouraging independent learning
- Developing confidence and self-esteem
- Giving pupils appropriate responsibilities and leadership opportunities
- Encouraging children to take responsibility for their behaviour
- Teaching pupils how to make safe and sensible decisions
- Promoting resilience, perseverance and self-discipline
- Providing opportunities for pupils to express their opinions respectfully
- Encouraging children to learn from mistakes and develop greater independence

Our pupils are encouraged to be individuals. We want children to have the confidence to think for themselves while understanding the importance of consideration, courtesy and responsibility towards others.

Mutual Respect

Respect is at the heart of the Sycamore Hall community.

We expect pupils to treat others with courtesy, kindness and consideration, regardless of differences between individuals.

Respect is demonstrated through everyday behaviour, including:

- Listening when others are speaking
- Using good manners
- Treating others fairly
- Looking after our school environment
- Respecting other people's property
- Showing consideration towards younger and older pupils
- Working cooperatively with others
- Celebrating the achievements of others
- Showing good sportsmanship
- Treating staff, visitors and fellow pupils with courtesy

Pupils are taught that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

We actively challenge bullying, prejudice, discrimination and behaviour that deliberately seeks to demean or exclude another person.

Through PSHE, assemblies, literature, history, World Religion and everyday school life, pupils are encouraged to understand that people may have different backgrounds, experiences, cultures, faiths, beliefs and family circumstances.

We believe that a respectful school community is one in which children feel secure enough to be themselves while also understanding their responsibilities towards those around them.

Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Sycamore Hall is committed to developing pupils who are respectful, thoughtful and understanding towards people whose faiths, beliefs or backgrounds may differ from their own.

Children are taught that individuals are entitled to hold different religious or philosophical beliefs, or to have no religious belief, and that such differences should be approached with courtesy and respect.

Our curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to learn about a range of faiths, cultures and traditions.

This includes:

- Studying major world religions through World Religion
- Learning about religious festivals and traditions
- Exploring different cultures through the curriculum
- Discussing similarities and differences between people
- Learning about different traditions and ways of life
- Exploring global themes through subjects such as History, Geography, English and Topic work
- Celebrating appropriate cultural and religious occasions

- Encouraging pupils to ask questions and develop understanding
- Challenging stereotypes, prejudice and discriminatory behaviour

For example, pupils may learn about celebrations such as Diwali and explore food, traditions and ways of life from different parts of the world.

The purpose of this learning is not to promote one belief over another, but to develop knowledge, understanding and respect.

Children are encouraged to ask thoughtful questions and to recognise that disagreement does not have to result in hostility or intolerance.

British Heritage, History and Citizenship

As a traditional British preparatory school, we believe it is important that children develop a sound understanding of Britain's history, heritage and institutions.

Knowledge of our past helps pupils understand the society in which they live and the responsibilities they will have as future citizens.

Through the curriculum and wider school life, pupils have opportunities to learn about:

- British history and heritage
- The development of democracy
- Parliament and democratic government
- The monarchy and Britain's constitutional traditions
- The development of the rule of law
- Important figures and events in British history
- Britain's contribution to the wider world
- The Armed Forces and public service
- Emergency and public services
- Significant national occasions and commemorations
- The importance of remembrance
- The responsibilities of citizenship
- Local history and the communities in which we live

We seek to give pupils a balanced understanding of Britain's achievements, traditions and historical development, while also encouraging them to consider different perspectives and understand that history can be complex.

Our aim is to develop informed young people who appreciate their heritage and understand the responsibilities that accompany citizenship.

Service, Community and Responsibility

We believe that education should encourage children to look beyond themselves.

Pupils are given opportunities to support charitable causes and understand the importance of helping those who are less fortunate.

Activities may include fundraising for organisations such as Children in Need, the Donkey Sanctuary and other charitable causes.

Through these activities, children learn about:

- Generosity
- Compassion
- Community
- Service to others

- Personal responsibility
- The positive difference that individuals can make

Children are also encouraged to help one another within school, whether through supporting younger pupils, working cooperatively or taking responsibility for aspects of school life.

British Values Across the Curriculum

British Values are embedded throughout our curriculum rather than being taught as a standalone subject.

They are particularly developed through:

History

Pupils learn about Britain's history, democracy, institutions, significant events and the development of society.

World Religion

Pupils learn about different faiths, beliefs, traditions and cultures and develop respect for those whose beliefs differ from their own.

PSHE

Pupils explore relationships, responsibility, personal safety, equality, respect, decision-making and their role within society.

English

Through literature, discussion and debate, pupils explore different viewpoints, characters, cultures, moral questions and experiences.

Geography

Pupils develop an understanding of different countries, cultures, communities and the wider world.

Sport

Pupils develop teamwork, discipline, resilience, fairness, respect and good sportsmanship.

Assemblies

Assemblies provide opportunities to discuss character, responsibility, kindness, respect, current issues, charitable work and significant national or cultural events.

Wider School Life

Pupils develop British Values through friendships, responsibilities, school rules, clubs, trips, charitable activities, leadership opportunities and their everyday interactions with others.

Equality and Respect

Sycamore Hall is committed to ensuring that all pupils are treated fairly and with dignity.

We promote equality of opportunity and do not tolerate bullying, harassment or discriminatory behaviour.

Children are encouraged to recognise and respect differences between people, including differences in:

- Faith and belief
- Culture and background
- Disability
- Family circumstances

- Gender
- Age
- Personal characteristics

Any expression of prejudice, discrimination, hatred or intolerance is taken seriously and addressed appropriately.

We encourage pupils to speak to a trusted adult if they are concerned about behaviour that is unfair, unkind or discriminatory.

British Values in Everyday School Life

At Sycamore Hall, British Values are not simply taught as a set of concepts. They are reflected in the standards and expectations we maintain every day.

Pupils experience British Values through:

- Good manners and courteous behaviour
- Clear and consistent school rules
- High expectations of conduct
- Respectful relationships between pupils and staff
- Opportunities to express opinions
- Democratic decision-making
- Independent learning and personal responsibility
- Teamwork and good sportsmanship
- Charitable fundraising
- School responsibilities and leadership
- Assemblies and discussions
- Learning about British history and heritage
- Learning about different faiths and cultures
- Understanding the role of laws and public institutions
- Supporting others within the school community

We believe that these everyday experiences are among the most effective ways of developing good character and responsible citizenship.

Our Commitment

At Sycamore Hall Preparatory School, we believe that education should prepare children not only for examinations and future careers, but also for life.

We want our pupils to leave Sycamore Hall as confident, well-educated and well-mannered young people who:

- Understand the importance of democracy
- Respect the rule of law
- Value their individual freedom while accepting responsibility for their choices
- Treat others with kindness, courtesy and respect
- Understand and respect different faiths, cultures and beliefs
- Appreciate Britain's history, heritage and institutions
- Understand their responsibilities as members of a community
- Have the confidence to express their views while listening to others
- Know the difference between right and wrong
- Have the resilience and independence to make sensible choices

- Understand the importance of service and helping others
- Are prepared to make a positive contribution to society

Our aim is to nurture children who are **kind, confident, capable and responsible**, with a strong foundation of knowledge, character and respect for others.

We believe that these qualities, alongside a high-quality education, provide the foundations for children to flourish throughout their lives.

Policy review: This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains consistent with current statutory requirements and the ethos and practice of Sycamore Hall Preparatory School.