

British Values Statement

At Royal Cross we take seriously our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain. We promote 'British Values' through our embedded ethos, the work of the School Council, pupil responsibilities, our curriculum delivery and the daily life of our inclusive school, helping pupils to understand their importance and how to behave as responsible citizens in a multi-faith and multi-cultural society.

We make every effort to ensure children experience a wide variety of cultures and beliefs beyond their local community, through for example, scouting events, sporting events, a range of visits and visitors to school.

We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all staff and provide a model behaviour for our pupils.

'British Values' have been identified as

Democracy

'Communication is key' – and the ability to communicate effectively in their first language is the most important aspect of daily life in Royal Cross. Our deaf pupils and staff using BSL are afforded respect and included in all aspects of everyday conversation and communication.

We empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By listening, valuing and responding to the 'Pupil Voice' we demonstrate support of democracy, tolerance and mutual respect.

Rule of Law

We involve pupils in setting codes of behaviour, helping pupils to make decisions and choices that are acceptable to the school community and wider society.

Pupils are supported & encouraged to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. They are helped to distinguish between right and wrong in the classroom, around school and on the playground. The Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies set out a zero tolerance for any form of aggression, abuse or violence towards each other, staff, parents and governors.

Staff are committed to providing a consistent and predictable environment within the school and beyond. We can help some pupils to understand the connection between actions and consequences through PHSE and Circle time activities. This kind of environment enables pupils to feel safe and secure, promoting optimum conditions for quality learning.

Individual Liberty

Pupils at Royal Cross are encouraged to become good and valued citizens. We do this by supporting each pupil to become as independent as possible, through pupil responsibilities and the work of the School Council. We endeavour to demonstrate that everyone has rights, including the right to say "No" when appropriate. All pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for particular roles and to understand that with certain rights comes a level of responsibility. Learning to do things independently is an important part of learning to

understand yourself and for our pupils it is part of understanding their deafness and the things that they can do to minimise its impact. We support others by participating in local community events and charity fundraising such as Comic Relief: Children in Need; Sports Relief and the work of Deafway to support international Schools for the deaf.

Mutual Respect

We promote each pupil's inclusion and all members of staff are experienced in using BSL so that no pupil or member of staff is excluded from conversation or learning opportunities. All our pupils are included in a range of activities, settings and locations. The children in Early Years have opportunities to integrate with other children as part of the Early Years events and Stay & Pay sessions held at Royal Cross. As pupils move into other Key Stages there are further planned opportunities to meet with a range of people in a variety of situations which include sports events, scouting events, community events and shared participation with other schools.

It is important that school facilitates opportunities for families and pupils to be part of the local, national and global communities. Families and deaf children often face barriers to inclusion due to communication difficulties and geographical distance, school helps in developing links and access. Pupils, families and staff have much to offer in the development of community cohesion and the understanding of deafness across communities.

Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Royal Cross School is a multi-faith community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all pupils' experiences and awareness of others.

Our Assemblies help all pupils to find out about themselves and others, linking their lives to the communities in which they belong. The themes cover such areas as friendship, helping others and celebrations from a range of faiths and world events. Links and visits are promoted with local communities and places of worship.

Pupils are encouraged to experience British Culture through our curriculum themes. As a school we hold Team events and activities that help to develop a sense of 'fair play' and 'team spirit'.

Although some pupils at Royal Cross may find it difficult to articulate feelings and concerns, staff are alert to changes in behaviour and demeanour and well-being that may indicate anxiety. If they are concerned about a pupil our accepted practice links to the Safeguarding Policy which entrusts a duty of care to all staff to actively protect and promote the welfare of children.

All staff work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that the pupils of Royal Cross School are happy, well cared for and enabled to learn the skills they need to live a fulfilling life as part of their community.