






EMERGE SCHOOL

British Values Policy

2025 - 2026

 **Our Vision:** *A culture rooted in safety, where people feel seen, heard, included, and connected through authentic relationships.*

 **Our Mission:** *To create a safe and nurturing environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging, is empowered in their growth and learning, and is encouraged to embrace who they are and who they aspire to become.*

 **Our Values:** *At Emerge School, our values are the foundation of who we are, how we work, and what we believe in. They shape how we support young people and how we support each other.*

We are proud to uphold these four core values:



Voice: *empowering every voice to speak, shape and be heard*



Connection: *rooted in relationships, thriving through authenticity*



Growth: *evolving with purpose, innovating with heart*



Inclusion: *where every story begins, and every person matters*

Excel & Emerge Care was created to give children and young people with complex needs a safe, supportive place to grow and heal. Through residential care, education, and therapeutic support, we build stability, trust, and a future where children and young people can truly flourish

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1. OVERVIEW

The DfE have reinforced the need *"to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."*

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister. Emerge is committed to ensuring that these values are reinforced regularly and 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.

2. BRITISH VALUES

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, tolerated and should not be the cause of discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination.

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

3. MISSION STATEMENT

Our school is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment. We recognise that all children need to succeed, thus 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. Our mission is to develop young people with active and creative minds, a sense of understanding and compassion for others and the courage to act on their beliefs. By fostering a caring and creative environment, we stress the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of each child.

This mission statement represents the principles that we strive towards at Emerge School. Throughout our work, we hope to show how we translate these aims into practice.

4. 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.
- Emerge will actively ensure the involvement of the whole community, particularly families and carers, 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.

5. DEMOCRACY

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Emerge School. Democracy is central to how we operate. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. Pupils regularly consult with their class to find out the views of all pupils and these are represented at School Council meetings. We have a school ambassador who ensures that the pupils' voice is always heard. The ambassador attends all school council meetings and acts on behalf of the children.

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 on a daily basis by our pupils.

Through the curriculum, children have the opportunity to debate and discuss varying topics and look at them from a range of viewpoints, this is supported by democratic votes which regularly take place throughout the school year. Furthermore, our school Relational Support policy involves rewards, which actively promotes pupils and pupil voice. We use the

curriculum to encourage and develop these skills through class discussions and problem solving.

6. THE RULE OF LAW

The importance of rules and laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently referred to and reinforced often throughout the school day, as well as through circle time and when we are dealing with or reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each 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 as they play a fundamental role in our behaviour policy.

Emerge sets high expectations for behaviour using a reward and consequences model, this allows us to work alongside the children to develop their understanding; why we need rules, what the rules are there for, how to follow rules. We believe this helps the pupils to see the significance of rules in the wider society. Pupils are taught the value of and reasons behind laws; that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences of breaking laws within the national curriculum.

7. INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

At Emerge, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. In an ever-growing technological world, we ensure that E-safety is promoted throughout school, and the children are informed fully to support them to, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms. As teachers we advise pupils how to do this in a safe way, not just in our diversity days but through the promotion of citizenship and Personal, Social and Health Education.

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, 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.

Pupils are free to make choices at lunch time and through the weekly 'clubs' on offer.

Furthermore, we encourage children through our positive praise and reward system to make choices about their behaviour and offer them support to manage this.

8. MUTUAL RESPECT

Respect is a big part of Emerge's ethos. Staff ensure that respect is modelled to the children throughout the school day, allowing the children to follow in our footsteps and teach them that conflict will be dealt with calmly and fairly. We believe that supporting the children's self-esteem will help to improve their respect for others this is evidenced in our Social Skills and PSHE curriculum, to develop the children's skills within this area. Teachers plan exciting, interesting, challenging and innovative lessons where everybody is expected to do their best and respect others. Encouraging mutual respect is embedded in everything we do at Emerge. We have high expectations of achievement and behaviour: we listen and show kindness towards each other, celebrating individual's achievements and encouraging their success.

9. TOLERANCE OF THOSE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS

Our school is proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. We aim to work beyond tolerance into acceptance. We support diversity and accept all individuals as part of our school; this is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience diversity, this ensures that politeness, patience and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims, ethos and R.E curriculum.

Our central aim to '*Prepare children for the future*' drives us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to 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 have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we at Emerge 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 class 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. Children are taught respect and tolerance of these groups, and the opinions of the groups are considered with all activities.

As detailed throughout this policy, British values are embedded within our curriculum discreetly and in stand-alone lessons. SMSC and British values are encouraged at Emerge and there will be evidence of curriculum links to both through books and display boards. We are proud of the work that we do and will continue to make the best use of opportunities as they arise. We want the children to learn about events in the past which have shaped the future and to use this to support their own future and future decisions in life.

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Approved by:



Head Teacher:

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