

1.8 British values

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1.8 British values

1.8 Promoting British Values

Policy statement

At **Miss B's Nursery**, we actively promote the fundamental British values expected within the **Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE)** and the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**. For young children, this means helping them learn the difference between right and wrong, encouraging them to share and take turns, and supporting them in challenging unfairness, negative attitudes, and stereotypes in ways that are appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Our nursery ethos is rooted in kindness, inclusion and cooperation. We believe children learn best through positive relationships and early experiences that foster their social and emotional development. Through this, children begin to understand fairness, respect, boundaries and the importance of living alongside others in a caring community.

The EYFS supports children to become active and thoughtful members of society in an age-appropriate way. This includes helping them to:

- Listen and respond to others.
- follow instructions and routines.
- understand the difference between right and wrong.
- notice similarities and differences between themselves and others.
- form friendships and show empathy.
- take turns in play and conversation.
- understand rules and boundaries.
- avoid unnecessary risks.
- recognise that words and actions can affect others.
- begin to understand the impact of unkind or discriminatory behaviour.

At Miss B's Nursery, the fundamental British values of **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs** are embedded in our everyday practice.

Our work in this area also supports children's rights under the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, including:

- **Article 2** – Every child has the right to be protected from discrimination.
- **Article 3** – The best interests of the child must be a primary consideration.
- **Article 12** – Children have the right to express their views and have those views listened to.
- **Article 14** – children have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

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- **Article 29** – education should help children develop respect for others, their own values and the values of others.
- **Article 30** – children have the right to enjoy their own culture, religion and language.

1.8.1 Democracy

At Miss B's Nursery, democracy is introduced in ways that are meaningful for young children, mainly through the EYFS prime area of **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**.

Children are encouraged to understand that their ideas, feelings and choices matter. Staff help children to see that they are part of a wider group and that everyone has a voice. Children are supported to share opinions, talk about how they feel, and recognise when they need help or when someone else may need support.

Staff provide regular opportunities for children to practise:

- turn-taking.
- sharing resources.
- making choices.
- working together.
- listening to one another.

Children are encouraged to ask questions and develop curiosity in an environment where their contributions are valued. This reflects **UNCRC Article 12**, which recognises children's right to express their views.

1.8.2 Rule of Law

An understanding of rules and why they matter is promoted through the EYFS prime area of **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**.

Miss B's Nursery helps children begin to understand that rules are there to keep everyone safe, happy and treated fairly. Children learn that behaviour has consequences and that expectations apply to everyone.

The nursery works with children to agree simple group rules for behaviour and everyday routines, such as tidying away toys, using kind hands, and listening during group times. These shared rules help children understand fairness, responsibility and consistency.

This approach supports children's rights to safety, well-being and development under **Articles 3 and 29 of the UNCRC**.

1.8.3 Individual Liberty

At Miss B's Nursery, individual liberty is promoted through the EYFS areas of **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** and **Understanding the World**.

Children are supported to develop confidence, independence and a positive sense of self. Staff provide experiences that help children build self-esteem and believe in their own abilities. They are encouraged to make choices, try new things, and, where appropriate, take managed risks in a safe environment, such as exploring physical challenges or attempting unfamiliar activities.

Children are also given opportunities to explore feelings, talk about responsibilities, and understand that people may think or feel differently. Staff help children recognise that having different opinions is acceptable and that everyone should be treated with respect.

This supports:

- **UNCRC Article 12** – children's right to express their views.
 - **UNCRC Article 13** – children's right to express themselves.
 - **UNCRC Article 14** – children's right to freedom of thought and belief.
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1.8.4 Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Mutual respect and tolerance are promoted through the EYFS prime areas of learning, particularly **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**, and through **Understanding the World**.

Miss B's Nursery creates an inclusive environment where different backgrounds, beliefs, family experiences, cultures and communities are acknowledged and valued. Children are helped to learn about both what makes people different and what people may have in common.

We support children to:

- appreciate their own background and identity.
- learn about other cultures, communities and traditions.
- respect different beliefs and ways of life.
- understand that families may look different from one another.

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- develop empathy, kindness and consideration.

Staff explain and model respectful behaviours, such as listening to others, sharing, taking turns and valuing different opinions. Diverse books, resources, stories, and activities are used to reflect a wide range of experiences and challenge stereotypes linked to gender, race, culture, or family life.

This work supports children's rights under:

- **UNCRC Article 2** – protection from discrimination.
- **UNCRC Article 14** – respect for different beliefs.
- **UNCRC Article 30** – the right to enjoy one's own culture, religion and language.

What is not acceptable at Miss B's Nursery

At Miss B's Nursery, it is not acceptable to:

- encourage intolerance towards people of different faiths, cultures, backgrounds or races.
- ignore or reinforce harmful gender stereotypes.
- separate girls and boys routinely without good reason.
- prevent children from engaging with the wider community.
- fail to challenge behaviour or attitudes from adults or children that conflict with the values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance.

Where inappropriate behaviour, comments or attitudes arise, staff will address them in a way that is suitable for the age and understanding of the children involved.

Human rights and children's rights

Alongside promoting British values, Miss B's Nursery also supports wider principles of **human rights** and **children's rights**.

We recognise the importance of helping children begin to understand, in simple and age-appropriate ways, that all people should be treated fairly, with dignity and respect. To support this, the nursery may use books, stories and discussions that explore equality, inclusion, fairness and the rights of children.

Resources in the nursery may include books inspired by:

- the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**; and

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- The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**.

These materials help children begin to understand that everyone matters and that all children have rights, including the right to be safe, heard, respected and included.
