

## British Values and the school Code of Conduct

### The school code of conduct is Care, Share and Be Fair

**Care** for ourselves, for others, for the things of the school and others, for the created world.

**Share** in the work and the play of the school, take part to the best of your ability and allow others to join in, too.

**Be fair** in weighing your needs against the needs of others, take your turn and allow others their turn, too; act responsibly in seeing situations from others' points of view, and in your use of the world's resources.

### The four principal British Values and how they relate to Care, Share and Be Fair

**Democracy** is about how we decide matters of importance to society, or to any community or group founded on democratic lines. But it is also much more than casting a vote in a ballot every five years. Democracy is built on the principle of participation, ensuring opportunities for citizens to engage in the processes of government and law-making. A healthy democracy needs people to participate in community-building at all levels of society. This value clearly links to the **sharing** aspect of the school's code of conduct as this is about joining in with the work and play of the school, taking part and supporting others to join in too.

**The rule of law** has clear links to any code of conduct in offering guidance on behaviour. Whilst laws are constructed to define the limits of reasonable behaviour, moral codes tend to identify the desired behaviour rather than unacceptable or unlawful actions. In situations of complexity, it is useful to remember what underpins our code of conduct, the '**Golden Rule**' from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount: "Do unto others as you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12). Ultimately, laws and codes aim to make clear the principles on which any society, community or group operates: the 'kindness principle' is a simple but powerful guide to choices about behaviour: "if it's not kind, don't do it."

**Individual liberty** is about what a person can expect from a *democratic* and *inclusive* society. *Democratic* reflects the concern for social equality and individual liberty is at the centre of this value. *Inclusion* reflects the tolerance shown to minorities in any mature democracy. This value clearly links to the **caring** aspect of the school's code of conduct as this is about respecting the individual and the things that are important to them.

**Mutual respect and tolerance** is about how we respond to difference. Implicit in any democratic society is the principle of tolerance for minorities. However, the current era of migration and mass movement of peoples around the globe obliges us to think beyond any majority/minority binary to the idea of diversity as a social norm. In these circumstances, in the midst of the clamour around difference, it is important we do not lose sight of the many things that we share, our common humanity being one such bond. A respectful attitude to difference begins with what binds us first. This value clearly links to the **fairness** aspect of the school's code of conduct which is about being considerate and mindful of one's actions and their impact on others and on the world we share.