

The Lotus Academy Trust



Supporting children to find opportunities in every difficulty

The Damara School



Specialist SEMH Independent School

British Values Statement

Approved by: Trust Board

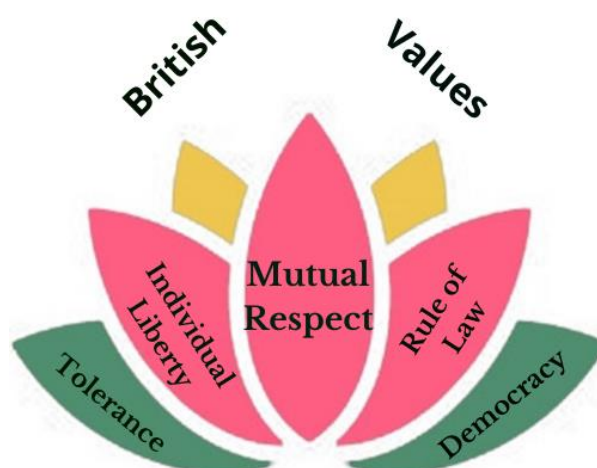
Initial Ratification: 31 August 2019

Review: October 2020, October 2023

Next review due by: October 2026

We promote the British Values of **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect** for and **tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith** through the entire school curriculum. We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff and provide a model of behaviour for our pupils.

The curriculum in all phases offers broad, creative and rich opportunities to develop 'the whole' child.



'British Values' include:

Democracy

The abilities to understand and communicate are the most important areas of learning. We ensure that pupils are given a 'voice' to communicate. This 'voice' could be using words, objects, photographs, pictures, cues or body language.

We empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each 'voice' and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty.

Please refer to The Pupil Voice policy to see how we promote democracy using pupil voice.

Rule of Law

We involve pupils in setting and reviewing personal targets and support them to make decisions and choices that are acceptable to the school community and society at large.

Pupils are helped to learn to manage their behaviour, take responsibility for their actions and understand the connection between actions and consequences. Staff are committed to providing a consistent and safe environment within the school which enables pupils to feel safe and secure thus promoting the optimum conditions for learning to take place.

Individual Liberty

Pupils are encouraged to become good and valued citizens through supporting each pupil to become as independent as possible. We demonstrate that everyone has rights; including the right to say 'Yes' or 'No' to ideas or activities. Some pupils will be able 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 oneself. We support others by participating in charitable events such as, Red Nose Day/Comic Relief and Children in Need. We believe that engendering a caring and helpful environment and to be independent can boost and nurture a healthy self-esteem.

Mutual Respect

We promote each pupil's inclusion in activities, settings and locations that are appropriate to them individually to meet their needs. Within school, pupils work with a range of people and interactions with others are always positively promoted on a personalised basis for each individual. The curriculum is personalised and planned for pupils and may include work shadowing and going into the community to meet with a range of people in a variety of situations which include: sports events, community events and participation.

We believe it is important to facilitate opportunities to be part of the community as the pupils, families, staff and local community have much to offer in the development of community cohesion.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

We are part of a school and local community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Cultural appreciation and development forms an integral 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 areas such as: friendships, helping others and celebrations from a range of faiths and world events.

Pupils are encouraged to experience British Culture through our curriculum themes, Theme Day and visits. As a school, we promote fair play and team spirit.

The staff work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that the pupils are happy, well cared for and enabled to learn the skills, knowledge and understanding to live a fulfilling life as part of their community.

Monitoring and review

Senior Leaders and Governors will conduct termly audits to corroborate and triangulate different types of evidence to build an accurate picture of the promotion of British Values within the school. Evidence will be captured through a range of tools: the school's ethos and aims, staff, pupil and parent voice as well as data captured on the school's recording systems.