Aims and Values Policy

Aim high and shine

JOHN T. RICE INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Policy Statement

At John T. Rice Infant and Nursery School, our motto is 'Aim High and Shine.' This simple but powerful statement underpins all that we do. We are committed to creating a happy, nurturing and inclusive learning environment where every child feels safe, valued and supported to achieve their very best.

Our school community believes that children thrive when strong relationships, high expectations, kindness and respect are at the heart of school life. We work in partnership with families to ensure that children develop the skills, knowledge, confidence and personal qualities they need to succeed both now and in the future.

Our Vision

To inspire every child to Aim High and Shine by developing confident, resilient, kind and successful learners who are prepared for the next stage of their education and life.

We strive to ensure that every child:

- Feels safe, happy and valued.
- Develops confidence in their own abilities.
- Achieves their academic potential.
- Learns to understand and manage their emotions.
- Builds positive relationships with others.
- Develops respect for themselves, others and the wider world.
- Becomes a responsible and active member of the community.

Our Core Values

J – Joining in and a Have a Go Attitude

O – Open-Minded Individuals

H – Honest and Kind Behaviour

N – Nurturing, Safe Environment

T – Tolerance and Understanding

R – Respect for Others

I – Independent and Resourceful Children

C – Confident and Happy Learners

E – Exciting, Imaginative, Fun Experiences

I – Interesting and Vibrant Curriculum

N – New Opportunities

F – Fun-Filled Days

A – Approachable Friendly Staff

N – Never Give Up Attitude

T – Together with Parents to Nurture Children

S – Skills, Knowledge and Understanding for a Bright Future

Our School Ethos

Our ethos is built upon the belief that children learn best when they feel safe, understood and connected. We are an attachment-aware and trauma-informed school, recognising that behaviour is a form of communication and that every child deserves support, understanding and guidance.

We believe that:

- Positive relationships are at the heart of successful learning.
- Every child deserves to feel valued, respected and included.
- Children need both nurture and structure to flourish.
- Fairness means giving children what they need rather than treating everyone exactly the same.
- Emotional wellbeing is fundamental to successful learning and development.
- Families are essential partners in supporting children's growth and development.

We are committed to promoting the principles of equality, inclusion and diversity, ensuring that all members of our school community are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of race, religion or belief, disability, sex, family background, culture, gender identity, sexual orientation or any other protected characteristic. We actively promote understanding, acceptance and mutual respect, preparing our children to become positive citizens in modern Britain.

School Agreements

- Be Kind
- Be Hard Working
- Be Respectful

How We Promote Our Values

Our aims and values are embedded throughout school life by:

- Delivering an ambitious and engaging curriculum.
- Promoting emotional literacy and self-regulation.
- Celebrating achievement, effort, kindness and positive behaviour.
- Developing children's independence and resilience.
- Promoting British Values and respect for diversity.
- Supporting children's mental health and wellbeing.
- Building strong relationships between children, families and staff.
- Providing opportunities for leadership, responsibility and service to others.
- Ensuring every child feels a sense of belonging.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

At John T. Rice Infant and Nursery School, we are committed to ensuring that every child, family member, staff member and visitor is treated with dignity, respect and fairness.

We actively promote equality of opportunity and foster positive relationships between people from different backgrounds. Our curriculum, policies and everyday practice support children to develop understanding, kindness, acceptance and respect for others.

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, we do not tolerate discrimination, harassment or prejudice of any kind. We actively teach children to value and respect differences and to understand that everyone is unique and equally important.

We promote respect for all protected characteristics, including age, disability, race and ethnicity, religion or belief, sex, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, and sexual orientation.

Whilst recognising that our pupils are young children, we believe it is important that they learn from an early age that everyone deserves kindness, fairness and respect regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, culture, disability, sex, family composition, beliefs or personal circumstances.

Through our curriculum, assemblies, behaviour and regulation approach, Relationships Education and daily interactions, we encourage children to:

- Celebrate diversity and difference.
- Challenge stereotypes and unfairness in an age-appropriate way.
- Develop empathy and understanding.
- Show tolerance and respect towards others.

• Recognise that discrimination and prejudice are unacceptable.

• Contribute positively to an inclusive school community.

We are proud of our diverse community and are committed to creating an environment where every child feels safe, valued, welcomed and able to flourish.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the Headteacher, school community and Governing Body.

John T. Rice Infant and Nursery School

Aim High and Shine

Autumn 2026