

British Values

The DfE have recently 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 this year. At Church Langton these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

Democracy is promoted within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, Eco Reps and Pupil questionnaires. Each teacher has different ways in which the pupils make their voices heard in their classroom e.g. through circle time, discussions, decisions over class rules. We also regularly hold visits to Parliament for the Year 6 so that they can encounter the heart of British Democracy and learn more about how the systems work. We have also established a debating club which teaches the children the skills needed for a true debate and the importance of allowing others to have their say as well as believing in their own right to voice their opinions. We try to challenge injustice through our curriculum and look at people and movements such as the Suffragettes and Hitler.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, school or country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days and through school assemblies. The children are taught right from wrong. Pupils are taught the value and reason behind laws; that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; Magistrates Courts etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. Each family signs the Whole School Agreement which includes the Code of Conduct as well as other linking themes. Work in RE on Codes for living in different religions and the significance of religious rules for people allow children to discuss the importance of this vale.

Individual Liberty

Within school, 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 pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advice how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. All classes work towards incentives such as Golden Time where their choices affect outcomes for themselves personally as well as the class. We also try to give ownership of learning to the children and promote a personal investigative approach.

Mutual Respect

Our school ethos, and behaviour policy revolves around our core Christian values such as respect, and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Our learning rules as well as our Rewards and Sanctions Policy helps to reinforce the importance of this and promote respect for all around the school. Our equality and Inclusion policy reflects this core value and we support events such as 'Anti Bullying Week'.

We promote respect through our circle times and enrichment days e.g. Talking Rhythms, Buddhist centre visits, as well as supporting charities where they promote respect and tolerance e.g. Jeans for Genes day.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. We celebrate festivals throughout the year from all the world religions. As part of our RE curriculum we visit places of worship e.g. churches, mandirs, temples, mosques, synagogues and Gurdwaras, as well as inviting in people of other faiths and beliefs to speak with our pupils. As a school we are working towards the International Schools Award which incorporates our work with schools in China and the enhanced curriculum which is promoted through Global Learning.