

British Values

Promoting Fundamental British Values in our school

Old Catton Church of England Junior School

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 and 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;

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

We uphold and teach pupils about the British Values as directed under Ofsted guidance, September 2014, which says schools must:

‘ensure that they and the school promote tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (or those of no faith), cultures and lifestyles; and support and help, through their words, actions and influence within the school and more widely in the community, to prepare children and young people positively for life in modern Britain’

As educators we recognise we have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe.

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. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices take place and supported by learning in RE. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

Our RE curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

We encourage our children to empathetic and have an ‘open mind’ and to be able to understand that others may have different opinions and beliefs, but knowing right from wrong and being positive members of the community.

We have a range of resources available to use in class to promote work on similarities and differences.

Assemblies and are delivered celebrating diversity in different cultures and faiths.

We provide the children with an understanding of the main festivals and key dates of significant British culture e.g. Remembrance Day.

Our School is committed to Serving its community and surrounding areas. We recognise the multi – cultural, multi - faith nature of the United Kingdom and understand the crucial role our school plays in promoting these values. This statement outlines the key British Values we actively promote.

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 young 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 advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety, assemblies and collapsed learning days. Whether it be through the choice of challenge or participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Our pupils are encouraged to share their interests and achievements out of school during our Celebration Assembly every week and in our newsletters.

Children are involved in the decision making in school, including being involved in school improvement to being offered the option to select their own choice of meal.

Children have key roles and responsibilities in the classroom and the school including being a prefect, school council representative, house captain, librarian, play leader and singing leader to name just a few.

Children exercise liberty by voting for their class council representative.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. We teach respect for all, right and wrong, tolerance and differences and respecting and following the law.

Also, through the curriculum pupils learn to understand the importance of liberty and they learn about their rights and responsibilities under laws.

We have a structured behaviour policy which all of our stakeholders understand and follow.

We have links with the local police through the PCSO, who visits us.

Children participate in decision making to agree class rules. As a result they understand the reasons for rules and laws that govern the behaviour in school and society.

Children understand and follow the rules for different areas in our school and playground.

Democracy

Democracy is prevalent within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil questionnaires. Elections for School Council representatives are undertaken in each class and house captains are also voted for by their peers. Children are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where children are safe to disagree with each other. Pupil questionnaires have been used by school leaders to find out about pupil's attitudes and perception of different subjects and aspects of school life to give children a voice in the planning of school improvement

Children are involved in the democratic process e.g. voting for school councillors, house captains, etc.

The School Council, Healthy Schools and Children's University are led by a member of staff who adheres to the democratic processes. Reported actions are sent to the SLT.

Children have many opportunities to listen to one another, take turns and work co-operatively in class.

There is an emphasis on children resolving issues themselves and being independent; see PATHs information.

Mutual Respect

Part of our school ethos and behaviour teaching has revolved around the Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. The school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. We also reward pupils who demonstrate that they are a good "Citizen" and 'role model' to others around the school. All adults model mutual respect at all times. Children are involved in discussions about respect and how this can be shown in class and during assemblies.

Sports activities promote an attitude of equality and fairness.

Our PSHE curriculum including PATHs provides many opportunities to discuss mutual respect in class.

Respect is embedded within our whole school rules.

Additional pastoral support is given to help develop self-esteem and the concept of respect through our various groups/services including 'SkillForce' and 'Time For You'.

Staff, and where appropriate pupils, are encouraged to challenge any prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.

Please see the PATHs curriculum to see how we embed British Values through the PATHS Programme