

British Values at West Haddon Endowed C of E Primary School

As a Church of England school, with our distinctive Christian ethos, we have a long tradition of supporting and promoting the values of respect and tolerance for all faiths, races and cultures. This has given our children a strong foundation on which to build their understanding of, and in turn their ability to exercise, the Fundamental British Values as defined by the Department for Education in 2014.

In our teaching and everyday activity, we demonstrate that British Values are indeed common values seen in many countries and within many cultures.

As well as actively promoting British Values, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

Below are just a few examples of how we promote British Values, both as a part of a taught programme and how we allow children to put these values into practice.

Being part of Britain

We value and celebrate being part of a multi-cultural Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year, for example, Harvest Festival during the autumn term, trips to the pantomime at Christmas and a traditional celebration of May Day at the start of spring. We actively take part in the life of the village and celebrate important national events, such as the 100th Remembrance Day anniversary and the record-breaking reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Our RE curriculum and annual schedule for assemblies raises awareness of important dates and celebrations in the calendars of other faiths followed in the United Kingdom, for example marking the Islamic New Year, Hanukkah and the Guru Nank's birthday. Understanding is enriched by visitors to the school from a range of cultures, faiths and beliefs.

Democracy

Children are taught about the origins of democracy in Ancient Greece, and how this has developed over time in the UK. They are taught about the electoral system for national, local and European governance.

Children experience democracy most notably through our School Council. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret etc. The School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes.

The Rule of Law

At the start of the school year, each class discusses the school rules and class routines. Children are taught the value and reasons behind these, so that they understand rules are necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Rules are reinforced throughout the school day, through both reward systems and through reflection on the consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

Children are taught about the rules and laws that govern and protect us at an age-appropriate level. For example, younger children will receive visitor from the police service and older children take part in mock trials from visiting magistrates.

Children reflect on the responsibilities that they have to follow the laws agreed upon as a part of the democratic process in the United Kingdom.

Individual Liberty

During assemblies and within lessons, we raise awareness of children's protected rights as detailed in the United Nations Charter for the Child. At an age-appropriate level, we discuss children's rights such as the right to be cared for and the right to learn. Awareness, understanding and how to exercise personal freedoms are taught directly through PHSE lessons and safeguarding activities (such as sessions with the NSPCC).

Alongside international and British rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. We promote debating about issues raised during topics, and teach the children how to argue their point-of-view with regard for the views of others.

We promote individual choice during the school day, such as choosing the learning activity during a lesson or a method of recording.

Mutual Respect

Our school ethos and behaviour policy are based around core Christian values such as 'respect' and 'responsibility' and these values determine how we live as a community at West Haddon Primary School. Collective Worship is based on putting our Christian Values into action, caring for one another and respecting one another. Christian Values are celebrated each month, where children unpick what the values mean to them.

As part of a taught programme, children acquire knowledge of the public services and institutions in Britain and begin to understand why they are respected.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Children are prepared for their future lives as a part of a diverse population of people from different backgrounds, cultures and faiths. Our RE curriculum teaches in depth the major religions that are an important part of the lives of many individuals and families in Britain. Visitors to the school enrich this knowledge and understanding, as children gain a first-hand experience of the differences and similarities in the way we all live our lives.

An annual schedule for assemblies raises awareness of important dates and celebrations in the calendars of other faiths followed in the United Kingdom, for example marking the Islamic New Year, Hanukkah and the Guru Nank's birthday.

PHSE sessions challenge prejudice-based bullying and stereo-types.

A dedicated Faith and Values in Modern Britain book captures many of the taught elements detailed in this document, containing the learning taking place in Religious Education lessons, British Values lesson and PHSE lessons. Other experiences are captured in the Celebration Books displayed in the reception area of the school.