

British Values

What does promoting British Values in school mean?

As part of improving the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils at All Saints Anglican/Methodist Primary School we ensure that our pupils “regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.” (DfE Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools 2014). We promote the basic British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and acceptance for those of different faiths and beliefs. This ensures that our pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

During their time in school we expect children to gain

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, based on clear Christian values, our school actively promotes foundational British values regularly and in the following ways.

Pupils are encouraged to link the various elements of British Values to their everyday lives and also to consider the impact on societies resulting from a lack of such values.

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at our school. Democracy is central to how we operate. An obvious example of this, in respect of the children, is the election of our Pupil Parliament that reflects the British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action. We have a pupil parliament whose members are elected biannually after manifestoes have been written and delivered and pupils have voted in secret using ballot boxes. The parliament is made up of pupils from Year 1 to Year 6. Weekly surgeries are held and regular meetings take place. The council has its own budget and is able to effect change in school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern for each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws is reinforced throughout our school every day through our Relationships Policy. This sets the principles that are clearly understood by all and ensures that every pupil is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Pupils are taught the values and reasons behind laws and rules that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that these involve and the consequences when these laws and rules are broken. Our Relationships Policy is embedded within our daily practice where pupils understand rewards and sanctions and choices and consequences. The principle of law is explored across many curricular areas, e.g. in RE lessons rules for particular faiths are considered and in PE where respect and appreciation for different rules is emphasised. Visits from external agencies, e.g. Police and Fire Service also help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Our safe and supportive environment encourages pupils to make choices and express views and beliefs. We support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Through the provision of a safe learning environment we provide boundaries that allow pupils to make choices safely. All pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example, through our regular E-Safety lessons. On a daily basis pupils are given opportunities to make choices within their learning by choosing their own level of challenge. We trust them to choose the appropriate level of challenge for themselves as we do not believe in putting limits on their learning.

Mutual Respect

Respect is a key value within our school and is one of the threads that links all other values. Pupils learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. Members of our school community are encouraged to treat others with respect. Many curricular areas are used as a vehicle to develop an awareness and appreciation of other cultures. Teachers and members of the Local Authority Diversity Team provide opportunities to discuss differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations. Through Learning Journeys, themed weeks and days we celebrate learning about the differences in countries and cultures around the world and in Worship we consider groups or individuals who might be vulnerable in some way.

Acceptance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

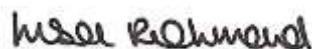
As our school community is not very culturally diverse we particularly recognise our responsibility to promote diversity with the pupils in different ways. Worship is planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from different faiths and cultures. Teaching across the curriculum reinforces this.

At our school we will challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to foundational British Values, including 'extremist' views.

Related Policies & Documents:

- Ofsted School Inspection Handbook,
- DfE, Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools,
- DfE, The Prevent Duty,
- DfE, Keeping Children Safe in Education,
- Relationships Policy (previously Behaviour and Discipline Policy)
- R.E. policy
- Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism policy

Head Teacher



Chair of Governor



Reviewed Sept 2024

Next Review Sept 2026