



Promoting British values at Highfield Primary 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, and these values have been reiterated this year (2014).

At Highfield Primary School these values are regularly promoted through high quality teaching, a rounded programme of assemblies and a positive behaviour policy which allows pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Democracy

Each year the children decide upon their class rules and the rights associated with these.

All the children contribute to the drawing up of the class rules. Pupil voice surveys are conducted yearly with the outcomes feeding into our whole school priorities. We have elected School House Captains, School Councillors, Eco Warriors and pupil committees in the following areas: Communication, Skills and Premises to include health & safety.

The elected members of the councils meet to work towards school improvement actions which they have identified and planned for themselves. Outcomes of these meetings are conveyed to the SLT and Governing Body as well as through newsletters to parents.

Recent outcomes

Playground improvements across the school

Improved wet play toys for each classroom

Children involved in selecting charities which the school supports

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Highfield Primary School. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. These are our class rules, playground rules and general safety rules. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws: that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from the local councillors as well as authorities such as the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

At Highfield, 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 informed choices through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, for example, whether it is through choice of challenge, how they record their work or by choosing to participate in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities. Our preview homework posters, guide and inspire children to find out on their own accord about what they will be learning in the week ahead, in addition to set weekly tasks. These posters also provide parents with information so they may engage with their children's learning. Through PSHE lessons all children are taught Protective Behaviours where they learn to take appropriate risk and how to protect themselves in a safe way.

Mutual Respect

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around core values such as 'respect' and 'working together'. Pupils have actively participated in discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. The school's vision and aims promote respect for others and this is reiterated through classroom rules and school expectations, as well as our behaviour policy.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures, many of which are represented at our school.

Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. Whilst we celebrate major faith events such as Easter, Eid, Diwali and Hanukkah, our most significant celebration is Christmas. We celebrate this festival in a local church as a multi faith service, led by our year 6 pupils, in which all of our diverse religions, faiths and beliefs are acknowledged and celebrated.