



How Whitehills Primary School promotes British Values

The Department for Education introduced a statutory duty for schools to promote British Values from September 2014, and to ensure they are taught in schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. The five key British Values are: Democracy; The rule of law; Individual liberty; Mutual respect; Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

The school uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways Whitehills Primary School seeks to promote British Values.

Democracy

Democracy underpins a lot of the work we undertake with our children. Pupils throughout the school are given opportunities to voice their opinions in a safe environment. In the Early Years, pupils often do this during carpet and circle times. As pupils progress through the school this remains, but is extended to include the shared creating of a class charter, and take part in class debates where they are encouraged to voice and express their opinions and views. Pupils contribute to making decisions about school improvement and are provided with opportunities to vote on some of the changes that directly affect them, through the school council. Pupils make contributions to interviewing new staff, complete pupil questionnaires and take opportunities to apply for positions of responsibility in school. The concept of democracy is promoted through voting on class and school decisions.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Whitehills Primary School.

Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. 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 authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Developing leadership is important and children have roles and responsibilities and understand the roles of adults working in and associated to the school.

Individual Liberty

At Whitehills Primary School, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As part of our school values, responsibility is a value our children deemed as being important. 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, whether through a choice of challenge, how they record their work, or their participation in extra-curricular clubs and opportunities. We expect our children to be responsible for their choices and pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms, our staff model this and advise the children how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety and PSHE work. Assemblies with the school also promote an understanding of liberty such as remembrance assemblies.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Respect runs through the heart of our school values. Respect for each other is discussed frequently as part of our PSHE curriculum and is modelled by all adults in school. Our PSHE curriculum, RE lessons, assemblies, and circle times promote mutual respect. As we are not situated in an area of great culturally diversity, we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Our RE and PSHE teaching addresses this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Assemblies are regularly planned to reinforce this with visitors of differing faiths. Pupils visit different places of worship and benefit from visiting speakers from different cultural backgrounds. Our program of assemblies includes stories from different cultures and religions. We provide pupils with opportunities to discuss differences between people e.g. faith, ethnicity, disability, gender and different family situations. Pupils are encouraged to take pride in how they look after each other, the school and themselves. Our rules and codes of conduct promote mutual respect.

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