

Promoting British Values at Whiteley Primary School

The Department for Education have 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
- ❖ Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

Whiteley Primary School actively promotes these fundamental British values and we challenge opinions and behaviours in our school that are contrary to them. The Government set out its definition of these values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values were reiterated in 2014. The intention of this new legislation, linked to the Prevent duty for England and Wales, is that all children including the very young are protected from being radicalised at an early age.

Through our provision we:

- ❖ Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self esteem and self-confidence
- ❖ Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- ❖ Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour
- ❖ Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- ❖ Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions
- ❖ Encourage respect for other people
- ❖ Encourage respect for democracy and the democratic process, including the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

As a result of us promoting fundamental British values, we believe pupils will:

- ❖ Gain an understanding of how citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process
- ❖ Appreciate that living under the rule of the law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety
- ❖ Accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and understand how they can positively contribute to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to wider society
- ❖ Understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected by law
- ❖ Accept that people have different faiths and beliefs which should be accepted and tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- ❖ Understand the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

At Whiteley Primary School, these values are already embedded in our day-to-day work with the children and are reinforced regularly in the following ways:

Democracy

We ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to, and we demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes.

At the start of every school year all children are actively involved in the drawing up of their class charters and the rights associated with these. The children also contributed to the initial development of our whole school and playground charters and are involved in regularly reviewing these. We have Young Governors and class ambassadors who are voted in by their class, as well as elected House Captains and Vice Captains. Democratic processes are used at other times in the year where pupils are given choices.

Opportunities such as general and local elections are used to promote fundamental British values. We provide older pupils with the chance to hold mock elections and debates, in order to learn how to argue and defend points of view.

Governor lead pupil interviews take place throughout the year, which enable pupils to express their views and opinions on a wide variety of aspects of school life.

The Rule of Law

The importance of law, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced at Whiteley Primary 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 and rules are broken. Children are expected to show their understanding of their class charter by signing their name in agreement.

Pupils have regular opportunities to reflect on their behaviour during PSHE lessons, Circle Times and during assemblies and are taught about the importance of making good choices in regards to their own behaviour.

Pupils are taught to understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law. Pupils are made aware of the difference between the law of the land and religious law.

Visitors, such as the emergency services and the Bikeability Team, are invited into school to reinforce these messages and a Keeping Safe Day is held at the end of Key Stage One to help pupils .

Individual liberty

At Whiteley Primary 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 to help pupils make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise them safely, for example through our e-safety and PSHE lessons.

Children are taught about our school values of success, mutual respect, inclusion, lifelong learning and enrichment. The school behaviour policy provides children with the opportunity to reflect following behaviour incidents.

Children are taught about their Rights, as listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect and positive relationships are encouraged and modelled. Children learn that their behaviours have an affect on their own rights and those of others. We teach the children about similarities and differences and compromise as we aim to ensure that all our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. Opportunities are provided for collaborative projects and group activities, where children learn to listen, take turns and value contributions from others. We also teach children to be part of their local community and they are encouraged to make a positive contribution to their local community. For example, Year 6 children engage in litter picking, carol singing at a care home, donations for the food bank at Harvest time etc.

Weekly 'Sharing assemblies' and certificates celebrate achievement throught the year and the Citizenship Award is presented termly for outstanding contributions within Year 6.

We value the abilities and achievements of all our pupils and believe they are entitled to an inclusive education. Pupils are encouraged to develop disability awareness, in order for them to understand disability from both a human rights and equality perspective. Children have the opportunity to recognise that people with disabilities are similar to themselves in many ways and to value the differences that people with disabilities may have. ELSA(Emotional Literacy Support) is available within school to provide emotional and social skills support.

Pupils are actively encouraged to participate in a range of sports and other clubs in order to develop their team building skills.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

At Whiteley Primary School we actively promote diversity through our teaching of different faiths and cultures and their festivals, such as Christmas, Divali, Chinese New Year and Easter. We teach the children about similarities, differences and compromise in order that they understand that people may have different beliefs but we can all play and work together and respect one another. Religious Education lessons, assemblies and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of understanding, tolerance and respect for others and emphasise similarities between religions. Anti-bullying assemblies and class discussions are regularly held. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths, and visitors from different faiths and cultures are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning. Absences for key religious festivals eg, Eid and Divali are honoured and authorised.

We will actively challenge pupils, staff, parents, governors or visitors expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views.

British traditions and Heritage

The teaching of British traditions and heritage is woven throughout the curriculum. We teach children about the world in which they live- the world on their doorstep and the wider world.

Examples include local area studies, the study and understanding of the influence of the Romans, Anglo Saxons, Vikings on our heritage and the effects of WW1 and WW2.

Pupils also learn about prominent characters from our history, such as Florence Nightingale, and have the opportunity to study traditional literature. Visits from local artists and musicians are encouraged. The children also learn about the Patron Saints of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, finding out about the traditions of the different countries within the UK. Special days such as Remembrance Day and Bonfire night are discussed and Royal Events and national sporting occasions are marked in school. Children are also taught traditional country and maypole dancing.