



British Values

Promoting British Values at Beechcroft Infants School

The Department for Education state that there is a 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 first defined the Fundamental British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and all schools are required to actively promote these values. At Beechcroft Infants School, these values are embedded throughout daily school life and are taught in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council, questionnaires and pupil voice discussions. We also embed democracy through age-appropriate class voting for example, choosing stories, songs and reward activities. The elections of the School Councillor, Eco-Warriors and Digital Leaders take place at the beginning of every academic year and reflect our British electoral system, demonstrating democracy in action. We invite parents and carers for their views throughout the academic year; a member of the Senior Leadership Team is available at the start and end of the school day. Questionnaires are distributed to parents and carers in the Summer term and a summary of the findings and resulting actions are publicised on the school website.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Our school has three rules 'Ready, Respectful and Safe', which are deeply embedded in our work every day. Each class also discusses these rules to ensure that they are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Rules are taught simply and consistently so children know what safe choices look like. We use the Zones of Regulation and emotions language to help pupils notice their feelings and make better choices. If a rule is broken, adults stay calm, explain the consequence and use restorative conversations to help children fix the problem and try again. We use tools like Now/Next for specific pupils who benefit from that additional support.

Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Our behaviour policy is consistently applied across the school by all staff. We are committed to praising children's efforts. We endeavour to praise the children informally, individually, during group work, in front of the whole class and the whole school. Children are rewarded not only for achievement in curriculum areas, but for also for their behaviour. Rewards are given in the form of stickers, certificates, bricks on the Wall of Fame and phone calls home. Children's achievements are also recognised during Celebration Assemblies and Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher for children going 'Over and Above'. School Rules are reviewed with the children at the start of each academic year and throughout the year when needed. All members of staff are consistent with the rules of 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Through our trauma-informed approach and regular Zones of Regulation check-ins, children learn to recognise and communicate their feelings and to make safe, supported choices throughout the school day. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We have a 'Worry Box' in the admin block if children need to voice any concerns and feel that they are unable to talk to an adult directly and also posters in every class advising children what to do if they have a worry. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our online-safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge; of how they record; of participation in our extra - curricular activities; our pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

Part of our school ethos has revolved around Christian values such as Kindness, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Friendship etc. and pupils have been part of discussions, Collective Worship and assemblies related to what the values mean and how they are shown in our everyday life. Our values are reinforced through displays, our website and in the curriculum when opportunities arise. Respect for others is reiterated through our classroom and learning the rules of Ready, Respectful and Safe, as well as our behaviour policy.

Tolerance of Those With Different Faiths And Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing children's understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Children encounter and celebrate diversity through age-appropriate books with inclusive characters, celebration days that explore food, music and stories from different cultures. Collective Worship and discussions involving differences and bullying have followed and

been supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within the school.

Underpinning all of this is a range of curriculum topics which have strong links to the British Empire.

At Beechcroft Infants School, we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

'Growing hearts, Shaping minds and Inspiring futures'