

Preparing Children for Life in Modern Britain



As a school that serves a richly diverse community, we take our responsibility to promote community cohesion, generate a respect for difference and individual rights seriously. This is encompassed in “*Growing Brighter Futures*”. We ensure the pupils **develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes** that will allow them to **participate fully** in and **contribute positively** to life in our community, in modern Britain and in the ever shrinking world.

The fundamental British Values of:

- **democracy**
- **the rule of law**
- **individual liberty and**
- **mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith**

are introduced, discussed and lived out through the **ethos and work** of the school. We take a **holistic approach** rather than focusing on how to cover British values in individual subjects as these values are promoted in so much of what we do. We believe all curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts but our **RE and PSHCE [including SMSC]** curriculums provide excellent opportunities to deepen and develop that understanding.

The school makes considerable efforts to ensure children have exposure to a wide experience beyond their local community during which these concepts are shown. Sadly, no school can guarantee that there will never be instances which are contrary to these values. At this school **such instances are rare and they are treated seriously**. We actively challenge pupils, staff or parent/carers expressing opinions contrary to these values, including ‘extremist’ views.

Children embrace these concepts with enthusiasm and demonstrate an understanding of their application to their own lives. We give them opportunities to understand their personal rights and freedoms, and how to exercise these safely. They learn about different models of democracy and take part in votes, pupil voice questionnaires and class and the school council. Topics such as anti-homophobia, equal rights and e-safety are taught explicitly. We reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others and pupils have the opportunity to visit places of worship that are important to different faiths as well as actively promoting diversity through visits to and visitors from different faiths and cultures.

References

The Prevent Strategy (2011)

Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools (November 2014)