

British Values at White Notley C of E Primary School

At White Notley C of E Church of England Primary School the teaching of British Values runs through the whole curriculum and all aspects of school life. We teach, nurture and encourage our pupils to become well-rounded citizens recognising the importance of making a positive contribution to their community and the world around them. We want to ensure our pupils leave school prepared for life in modern Britain and provide a learning environment demonstrating tolerance and acceptance of all people and religions and faiths that differ from our Christian ethos.

The Key British Values are:

- democracy
- rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Here at White Notley C of E Primary School, we promote these fundamental values in the following ways:

Democracy and the democratic process

It is important that children have a developing understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.

We encourage children to be active citizens and to accept responsibility for their actions and behaviour. They begin to understand how individuals can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school. Members of the School Council occasionally attend the Parish Council in White Notley and give a 'school report' to councillors. As children's understanding deepens they come to realise how the democratic process contributes to the wider society, such as through a General Election to elect Members of Parliament.

Democracy is embedded in the life of the school. Children are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Children also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and regular pupil questionnaires. The elections of the School Council members and School Council procedures demonstrate democracy in action. Pupils have the opportunity to take part in our own school party elections; creating their own manifestos, presenting their beliefs and the whole school voting for their preferred party.

Respect for the rule of law

It is important that children understand that our society is based on the idea that we all abide by the same rules, whatever our wealth or status. No one is above the law - not even the government. Equality before the law means that no one should be treated differently

on the basis of belonging to a particular group. Living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and their property and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.

We teach children to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the laws of the country. We also promote respect for school rules that exist to keep them safe and that enable everyone in the school to learn effectively in a supportive, happy environment. Each class also discusses and sets its own rules that 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. In PSHE and Citizenship lessons children are taught the values and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. We investigate some of the different bodies that produce legislation at different levels and the basics of how this occurs.

Concern for individual liberty and personal freedom

British children inherit a political culture and a set of specific legal rights and obligations that promote personal freedom for all citizens under the law. At the same time, the law limits some freedoms so that they do not encroach upon the well-being of other people.

Within school, children are actively encouraged to make choices and take calculated risks, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school, we educate and provide boundaries for our children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. They are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely and responsibly; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and P.S.H.E. lessons. Whether it is through everyday choices and decisions, such as participation in our many extra-curricular activities, our pupils are given the freedom to make choices. Through history lessons we examine how our freedoms have grown and developed, such as a topic on the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta. We also examine how these freedoms have been defended when examining the home front during the Second World War.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different opinions, faiths and beliefs

Respect for other people and their right to hold opinions with which we may disagree is a guiding principle for almost everything that happens in school. We also expect others to respect our right to hold our own beliefs. This value underpins much of our PSHE teaching, global citizenship, Acts of Worship and RE. It is a vital concept for a modern, pluralist, multicultural democracy.

Respect is one of the core values of our school. Children know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have. We study a range of non-Christian religions and each year focus on a festival for in-depth study, such as Diwali, Holi, Chinese New Year or Hanukkah. Beliefs, traditions, art work and customs will be studied in detail. Our 'Let's celebrate!' board in the hall displays festivals from different cultural and religious traditions as the year unfolds. Through this our pupils gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society.

During philosophy lessons, contrasting (and sometimes conflicting) opinions are examined within the supportive ethos of a community of enquiry. This allows children to discuss and debate whilst developing skills linked to effective communication and social interaction.