

TEACHING BRITISH VALUES

Promoting British Values at Somerby Primary School

The DfE have recently 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 and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."*

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister. At Somerby Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is everywhere within the school.

Each year the children decide upon their own class rules and rights associated with them. All children contribute towards these and they are displayed in the classroom.

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. The council has its own budget and is genuinely able to effect change within the school.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies.

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. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; Local dignitaries etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty:

Within Somerby 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 for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect:

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown.

Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and the rights of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

Somerby Primary school is situated in an area which is not greatly culturally diverse therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. As a school we enhance pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity.

Assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Also through discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE.

Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children learn about and visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

At Somerby Primary School we actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views.