

British Values at Withymoor

Whole school work

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 this year (2014). At Withymoor these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

- House captains and School Council Representatives – all democratically elected to encourage the children to become involved in the decision making process.
- Lifestyle survey/Pupil questionnaires/Pupil voice - allows children to become involved in the decision making process and ensures they are listened to within school.
- Participation in Dudley Schools Debate and Inter-school RE debates – helps children to express their thoughts and opinions in a safe environment. Children learn how to argue and defend a point of view.

The rule of law

- Robust Behaviour policy/Behaviour charter/School values – ensure school rules and expectations are clear and fair. Helps children to understand right from wrong and the impact their behaviour has on those around them.
- Pupils help to write class rules – ensures that pupils are aware of and actively involved in the promotion of positive behaviour expectations
- Parent / carers questionnaires relating to behaviour, safety etc – parents are listened to and their views are fed into our behaviour policy to enable a rounded approach to behaviour management across the school
- Focus assemblies - e.g. school rules, internet safety guidelines, anti - bullying etc planned in to assembly timetable.
- Pupils have regular opportunities to reflect e.g. learning, their behaviour, during assemblies.

Individual liberty

- School Council – models freedom of speech through pupil participation, helping the children to understand that they make a difference to their school and those around them.
- Behaviour Charter/Behaviour Policy/Anti-bullying policy/Playground Pals /Anti-bullying week/Classroom Rules/ - encourages children to take responsibility for their behaviour as well as understanding their rights.
- House points/Star of the Week/ Quick notes home/Reader of the Week/Individual personalised feedback/Peer and self assessment – supporting children to develop their self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Gold Book assembly – helps children develop their own self-confidence in their own ability whilst also celebrating the achievements of others.
- R.E curriculum – encourages the children to challenge stereotypes. Children not only learn about religion, they can also learn from religion and relate a range of topics to their own lives.
- Competitive Sports link – allowing children to strive to be the best, whilst promoting good sportsmanship and celebrating the achievements of others.
- School values—known and articulated by school community members
- Throughout the curriculum, the promotion of SMSC encourages pupils to make informed choices about a variety of issues (eg how to keep safe on the internet, keeping healthy, learning choices, attendance at extra-curricular activities)

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- R.E. curriculum and visits to a wide range of places of worship – helps children to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.
- Themed assemblies – provide opportunities for pupils to share and understand the beliefs of a wider range of faiths and beliefs
- Cultural theme assemblies/days/weeks (E.g. Diwali, Chinese New year) during the year provide the opportunity for pupils to actively celebrate a range of cultural and religious feasts
- Time for reflective thoughts in assembly – develops critical thinking skills.
- Links with local faith communities (E.g workshops led by Christian Fellowship/Harvest Festivals)