

Promoting British Values at Highbury Infant 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. At Highbury School, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is evident in the school. An example of this is our School Council, through the nomination and voting processes involved. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and given the opportunity to influence school-related decisions.

Additionally, pupils complete questionnaires and subject leaders undertake pupil voice activities to ensure that pupils are a part of the development of the school. Our core values and behaviour system are understood and supported by the pupils who use them to understand rewards and sanctions.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws are taught to the children right from the Early Years. Our behaviour system empowers children to make the right choices and shows them that there are consequences to acting against the accepted rules. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us. Reward systems are in place for pupils who demonstrate a commitment to following the school rules which include expectations about kindness, respect and listening to others.

Individual Liberty:

Within 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. We present pupils with relevant information regarding E-Safety and personal freedoms through PSHE lessons. We also offer pupils a wide range of extra-curricular clubs that they can chose to do.

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. This is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions around the themes of acceptance of differences have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Pupils have the opportunity to develop their sense of identity and know that difference, diversity and uniqueness is accepted. They learn about different faiths and cultures in order to gain an acceptance and tolerance of others.