

The DfE have recently stated 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 first set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. At Brimington Junior School we believe these values not to be exclusively 'British' or confined to a specific group. We consider them to be essential to our everyday lives so that the young people in our care grow up to be well-rounded, responsible, considerate and caring human beings. We promote them as part of our duty as educators to encourage free-thinking and reasoned decision making, whilst engendering tolerance and understanding amongst everyone in our school community:

Democracy

We have numerous systems in place in school to develop children's understanding of Democracy: school council, ECO committee, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Mini-techies etc. These systems are designed to ensure that children are given a greater 'voice' and empowerment in their own education. Our Y6 children visit the Houses of Parliament as part of their London residential trip. They have a guided tour of the House of Commons and House of Lords as well as a workshop which examines democracy and law in Britain. This was further extended by a visit from our local MP to answer questions.

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 each school day. 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 and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

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 pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and thematic curriculum.

Mutual Respect

Senior Leaders welcome children daily into the school and begin every day by greeting all pupils with 'Good Morning'. This sets the tone of mutual respect throughout school, across the whole day. Peer-marking and evaluation of one others' learning in relation to success criteria are all ways in which this is reinforced as part of everyday practice. Themes of respect and tolerance are built into the schools aims and Learner's Code.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Brimington is situated in an area which is not particularly culturally diverse therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. 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. Our R.E., P.S.H.E., curriculum coverage and teaching reinforce this. Our partnership work with an inner city Catholic school supports our children's understanding of different faiths and beliefs

At Brimington Junior School we will actively challenge pupils, parents or staff who express opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' or discriminatory views.