



Marsden Community Primary School

British Values Policy

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MARSDEN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Promoting British Values 2016-17

Rationale

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 last year (2014). At Marsden Community Primary School these values are reinforced regularly so that all learners learn and develop understanding of these areas, both through the curriculum, extracurricular and other opportunities

This policy sets out the four key areas within which the DfE has defined British values

- (a) Democracy: Respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process
- (b) The rule of law: Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- (c) Individual liberty: Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- (d) Mutual respect and tolerance: Support for equality of opportunity for all and respect and tolerance of different faiths and religions.

Aims and Objectives

- To enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- To encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour

- To Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own cultures
- To encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process,

Teaching and Learning

British Values are promoted throughout school; this is done through a variety of teaching and learning approaches and embedded throughout all areas of the curriculum.

Democracy

Each year the children decide upon their class charter and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the charter. The School Rules are also annually reviewed with the children.

We have a School Council, which meets regularly during the school year. These children have had to present to their peers to persuade them why they should be elected to the role at the start of the year. Each School Councillor is democratically elected by their class during Election Day early in the Autumn Term . The school council is genuinely able to effect change within the school.

Democracy is also actively practised in classes with children voting on a range of issues, from how to spend the money in their budget, to how to improve the facilities in the school playground.

In the first 6 weeks of every new academic year, each year group delivers a series of lessons to promote learner voice. We use storybooks and role play scenarios to ensure that every child knows what learner voice is and how to use it.

The children also experience questionnaires and are interviewed on issues ranging from behaviour, playground issues, to their opinions about school dinners and their thoughts about their learning in various subjects. These then feed into future planning.

How we influence democracy is explored through PSHE and assemblies.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country is consistently reinforced at Marsden.

Pupils are taught and agree from an early age the 'rules', values and expectations of the school. These are our Marsden Values and Expectations. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Many of these rules and laws are taught through our curriculum, which includes many safety aspects, such as: road safety, e-safety, fire safety and firework safety. We also have strong links with our police community support officer who comes into school to work with our children.

Through the UNICEF Rights Respecting School our children are educated about their rights as a child and injustices which can take place to others are explored.

Individual Liberty

At Marsden, 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 from where pupils can make informed choices, through a safe environment (both in the real world and through online platforms) and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge or how they record (for example using their iPad or how they present group work), participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Stereotypes are regularly challenged at Marsden and we are focussing on raising the aspirations of all of our children with visits from people from a range of workplaces so children can see and experience different career possibilities and

through successful projects such as the Extra Mile Project which was aimed at improving aspirations.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values – ‘No Outsiders’ at Marsden is a high profile message that is communicated to children. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. The core value of Respect at our school underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom. All members of the school community treat each other with respect. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others.

We have “Reflection Time” and Learning Mentor support to instruct the development of specific children’s social and emotional skills.

Anti-bullying has a high profile within the school with it being addressed through general classroom practice, the PSHE curriculum, assemblies and allocated Anti Bullying days which encourage cross Key Stage working.

Children are also taught about respect and bullying in the online world also, through regular e-safety lessons and assemblies. They also know what to do if they see something upsetting or disrespectful.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

At Marsden we value diversity and actively promote it through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons, assemblies and PSHE lessons actively challenge stereotypes and reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others no matter of their ethnicity, beliefs, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age or any other protected characteristics, (as outlined in the 2010 Equalities Act and article 14 of UNICEF’s Rights of the child). Cultural Diversity Days are planned to promote this so different cultures and traditions can be experienced and explored.

Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Classes visit different places of

worship, where this fits in the curriculum. Major religious festivals are acknowledged through assemblies and the RE curriculum.

We encourage our children to interact with children from other schools, both locally and further afield, through organised activities. This includes our partnership primary school Lomeshaye Junior School in Nelson, Marsden Heights and St Michael and All Angels C of E Primary School in Foulridge.

At Marsden, we actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to the values we hold as a school, including 'extremist' views.

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