

British Values

In recent years the DfE have 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.' At St Patrick's Catholic Primary school we pride ourselves on promoting these values in the following ways.

Democracy.

In our school we value the opinions of our children and they are given many opportunities to exercise their right to vote and we strive to make sure their voices are heard. At the start of each year the children decide on their own charters for their classroom. The children work as a class to agree on the rules which they think are the most important for them. These rules then form the basis of our traffic light behaviour system and children who are seen to be exemplary examples within their class are rewarded with a visit to Mrs Lomas and a special sticker. From Year 1 onwards, each child in our school is allocated a house for that academic year. Throughout the year they work to gain points for their house and these points then decide which house receives the special reward for each year. The children in that house are then able to vote for the person they would like to be their House Captain. Children are encouraged to use their 'pupil voice' and share their opinions about their education with others. Leaders and Visitors regularly interview children to gauge their thoughts and feelings about our school. These opinions are then fed back to staff.

The Rule of Law.

The importance of rules and laws is consistently reinforced in our school and the children are reminded of this through the behaviour system which is based on each class' rules. We work to encourage and celebrate those children doing an exemplary job of following these rules but the children also understand that if they do not follow their class rules there will be consequences to their actions. We have an annual Year 6 trip to the Halifax Magistrates Court which allows them to see how the law works.

Individual Liberty.

We encourage children in our school to make individual choices knowing they are in a safe and caring environment. We educate children on the importance of making informed choices on a range of subjects from encouraging healthy eating and exercise during Fitness Week to understanding the importance of E-Safety and recognising healthy relationships through our SRE lessons. Our children understand that they have the right to make their own choices and express their opinions but also understand that they should consider how their opinions might make others feel and express them in a respectful and polite manner. We also remind them that while they have the right to make their own choices, so do others and that these choices should be respected whether they are the same or different.

Mutual Respect.

Showing mutual respect to others is at the heart of many of the things we do at St Patrick's. Our Positive Playground Ambassadors are present in playgrounds at all times. This is a group of Year 5 and 6 children who work hard to ensure that all of the children in our school enjoy a positive playtime experience. If there are instances where mutual respect is not being shown, they provide the children involved with an alternative course of action and suggestions of how they could alter their behaviour to make the situation a positive one. Our children understand that it is our job, as members of God's family, to show respect to those less fortunate than ourselves by sharing what we have with them and creating a better world for everyone. One of our greatest achievements is the amount of work we do as a school community to raise money for a wide variety of charities throughout the year. Whether it be through our Harvest Festival, Advent CAFOD fundraising, Lent Fayre, Poor Lunch or any of the other events during the school year, the children are fantastic ambassadors for the importance of ensuring that we improve the lives of others in any way we can.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs We are incredibly fortunate in that our school is situated in a culturally rich and diverse area of Halifax therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Our RE curriculum reinforces this. Any children of other faiths are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school and an 'Other Faith Week' is part of our whole school R.E. curriculum. Our Year 5 classes also have a section of their R.E. curriculum specifically dedicated to exploring other faiths