

## **BRITISH VALUES**

### **How we promote British Values at Wickersley St Alban's C of E Primary 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.”

*At Wickersley St Albans C of E Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:*

#### **CURRICULUM:**

- In Key Stage 1 pupils are taught about similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods, how changes within living memory reveal changes in national life and about events beyond living memory that are significant nationally. They also learn about the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national achievements.
- In Key Stage 2 British history is taught through a carefully designed set of ‘key skills’ for history as pupils continue to develop their knowledge of British and local history. Periods of British history studied include The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain, Britain’s settlement by the Anglo Saxons and Scots, the Viking and Anglo Saxon struggle for the kingdom of England and local history.
- In Year 6, pupils undertake a topic about World War Two looking at the impact that the military had in fighting for the British Empire. This is linked with Remembrance Day commemorations where children purchase poppies and a two minute silence is held in St Alban’s Church with the whole school community in attendance.
- As a whole school, we have celebrated the World Cup, the Olympics and Para Olympics, with Olympic themed sports days and special Olympic weeks. Olympic medal holder Peter Elliott visited and was part of our celebrations, with children having opportunities to see the medal first hand.
- Royal celebrations play a large part in our curriculum offer and the Golden Jubilee was a huge event for the school, with a 'street party' event held on the school playground and traditional children's party food served to all.
- Our daily assemblies are very important to us, and it is here that we regularly uphold the traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance. These are also taught within formal SEAL, PSHE, Citizenship and RE lessons and, indeed, the British values of respect, tolerance and empathy are fostered throughout all of our daily interactions: modelled by staff and nurtured in pupils.

#### **DEMOCRACY:**

Each year the children decide upon their class rules and the rights and responsibilities associated with these. Each class creates their own 'class charter' which they then all sign and agree to. Class charters are read out in assembly for the whole school to hear about and respect.

Pupil voice is high on our agenda as a school, and as a result we produce an action plan each year in our Developing Action Plan to ensure that it remains high profile and improves every year. Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a student council and the pupils all complete questionnaires on their lessons, the environment and anything they want to change. All children have the opportunity to talk to senior staff on a regular basis and use these occasions to share their views.

Our School Council members are democratically elected annually having shared their manifesto with the whole school and regular meetings also follow a democratic decision making process.

Democracy is explained in assembly and the children are encouraged to follow the news in relation to voting, with children given opportunities to debate the issues currently being addressed.

### **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 regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind law enforcement, that they govern and protect us, and the responsibilities that these involve and the consequences that can occur when laws are broken.

Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; Ambulance staff etc. help to reinforce this message. In Y6 pupils visit annually the police education programme (Crucial Crew), where such values are reinforced and explained.

### **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, through the provision of a safe environment and 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.

Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, whether through choice of challenge, how they record their work, or their individual participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities.

### **MUTUAL RESPECT:**

Assemblies regularly promote 'respect', and pupils have been part of discussions related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy.

When a child does something well their achievement is celebrated in a weekly 'Celebration Assembly', with parents and family invited. Part of our school ethos revolves around core values including respect and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown.

These ideas are reiterated through the school and classroom rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Additional support is given to individual children to help develop self – esteem and the concept of respect.

### **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. We have visits from the local Vicar as well as church members who run a regular 'Open the Book' assembly.

We value first hand experiences and as a result we seek to build tolerance and respect of different faiths and beliefs through the study of a variety of faith buildings.

We use assemblies to explore and understand the similarities between religions. Curriculum topics include learning about and, most importantly, *from* other faiths and misconceptions between religions are addressed as well as prejudices that have been expressed by the community.

Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are regularly held. We follow the Rotherham Agreed syllabus for RE and use the SEAL materials to enhance PSHE teaching.