

Promoting British Values at Woodcroft First 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 has set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At Woodcroft First School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our pupil elected School Council. School Council Members are elected through pupil voting. Every child from Reception to Year 4 has the opportunity to stand for election and does so, by presenting themselves to their peers, outlining their own qualities and strengths. Each class holds a secret ballot with a ballot paper and a candidate is voted in. Each class also has a Vice Council Member too.

The School Council meets every half term. The minutes and agenda of the school council meetings are shared on the School Council display. The members of the Pupil Parliament are present at these meetings and they then share the views of the pupils from the meetings with the Senior Leadership Team. (SLT) Any key issues are then taken to the Pupil Parliament Meetings through St Bart’s Trust where common areas are tackled at a Trust level.

Team Captains are also elected by each team. All Year 4 pupils have the opportunity to be a Team Captain and they have to present their manifesto to their peers before they are voted in. The whole school also voted for the team names of the houses as part of the new ‘House System’

Our school behaviour policy involves weekly rewards in the form of ‘Golden Time,’ which the pupils vote on as a class group.

Within classes there are regular votes held to make democratic choices, for example Reception choose their next book by a voting system.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced through our 'Good to Be Green' behaviour system. Our class dojo points and team points are rewarded for following our six 'Golden Rules' and celebrated in our weekly 'Celebration Assembly' with certificates, for our 'Star of the Week' who show one or more of these outstanding qualities;

- We are honest
- We look after property
- We are kind and helpful
- We listen
- We are gentle
- We work hard

Every child that is Star of the Week also gets to sit at the Golden Table with SLT on a Friday lunchtime and they also get to take home the 'Class Pet'. This goes to further enforce the rewards of behaving in a positive way and following the school rules.

In every English and Maths lesson there is a 'Star Learner' who has also shown to be following the rules in the GTBG Policy

Assemblies also help to reinforce these rules and our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws; that they govern and protect us and the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Regular visits from authorities such as the Police and the Fire Service are regular parts of our calendar, particularly in the foundation stage and these are presented to the children as 'People who help us,' and this helps to reinforce this message, to our youngest and most vulnerable students.

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 our pupils to help them make these choices safely,

through the provision of a safe environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms, and are advised how to exercise these rights safely, for example through our E-Safety, RE and PSHE lessons.

Participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs, gives our pupils the opportunity and freedom to make choices for themselves.

Mutual Respect:

The children are taught about respect through our Good to be Green behavior policy. We also discuss it through PSHE, RE and English lessons.

Displays around the school promote respect for others both in our own community and online. Children are exposed to the views of others and told to respect them.

Remembrance gave our pupils a good opportunity to show respect for our Armed Forces and for those that have lost their lives in all of the wars through the years.

The message of tolerance and respect is shared on our British Values displays in classrooms and on our school website.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

Our RE lessons provide a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying, have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE