

Promoting British Values at Woolden Hill 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***
- ***Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs***

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. These values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At Woolden Hill School, British values are regularly reinforced in a variety of ways

Democracy

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. It promotes the democratic process, fosters the concept and application of freedom of speech and group action to address needs and concerns. The election of a girl and boy School Councillor from each of Years is organised through pupil vote from each year group for those pupils who wish to stand to represent their year group. The Chair and Vice Chair of the School Council are elected from Year 6.

Every year pupil views are sought through questionnaire on a wide range of school matters including enjoyment of school, quality of learning, standards of teaching and behaviour and matters related to safety. We use the outcomes of surveys to make adjustments and improvements for the children.

Democracy - At Woolden Hill we aim to:

- ✓ Include in the curriculum information and opportunities to learn about the parliamentary and democratic system in Britain
- ✓ Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, British institutions.
- ✓ Teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process in school and ensure they are listened to.
- ✓ Explain the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain
- ✓ Develop children's ability to learn how to argue and defend points of view.
- ✓ Help pupils to express their views in a variety of situations.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, including those governing the individual, the class and the whole school, are consistently reinforced through the school year. The children understand these laws these as rules. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind British laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. They also understand that working within agreed rules brings its own rewards. At the start of each school year class teacher's work with children to draw up age appropriate class rules that all class members agree to. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

The Rule of Law – At Woolden Hill we aim to:

- ✓ Ensure school rules and expectations are clear and fair.
- ✓ Help pupils to distinguish right from wrong.
- ✓ Help pupils to understand how and where laws are made and to respect the law.
- ✓ Help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects us as individuals.
- ✓ Help pupils understand that there is a difference between religious and criminal law.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to develop independence and make personal choices, knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering them through education.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge or working partners, choice of how they record their work, of choice of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities.

Individual Liberty – At Woolden Hill we aim to:

- ✓ Support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- ✓ Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights
- ✓ Challenge stereotypes
- ✓ Implement a strong anti-bullying culture
- ✓ Follow the UNICEF rights respecting schools agenda (www.unicef.org/crc)

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Respect is a core value within which our school ethos and behaviour policy are based. Through class, year group and whole school activities and discussions pupils have a good understanding of what respect means and how it is shown. Our class and school rules and our behaviour policy thoroughly reinforce this ethos. Visitors to our school e.g. the local clergy also reinforce the importance of respect.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is encouraged through our ethos of respect and through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. We provide our pupils with opportunities to experience the cultural diversity of Leicester and Leicestershire. Within our RE curriculum we study the background and practices of a range of faiths practiced in Leicester and Leicestershire, including the Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Jewish faiths. We take our children to visit places of worship of these faiths and provide opportunities for our children to speak with and listen to faith leaders.

Discussions in RE and PSHE lessons at an age appropriate level give pupils opportunities to consider the reasons for and consequences of religious and racial intolerance and prejudice-based bullying.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

At Woolden Hill we aim to:

- ✓ Promote respect for individual differences
- ✓ Help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life
- ✓ Help pupils to challenge prejudice and discriminatory behaviour
- ✓ Organise visits to places of worship
- ✓ Develop links with faith communities
- ✓ Discuss differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations.