

Promoting British Values at Watton at Stone 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 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 Watton at Stone these values are reinforced regularly in the following ways:

Democracy

Our children’s views and ideas are discussed regularly in School Council Meetings and pupil voice forms a key part of whole school monitoring. Throughout the year children also have an opportunity to vote for representatives to fill roles like house captain or playground buddy.

A number of children are included in working parties to discuss and review policies like the behaviour and bullying policies and these policies are later shared with all the children. Each class also spends time creating a unique class charter which they review through the year during PSHE lessons.

Parent’s views and opinions are sought and valued. Parents have the opportunity to fill out questionnaires and they are invited to be part of policy working parties along with teachers and governors. Parents are asked to contribute their ideas on open days and parents evenings.

The Rule of Law

Our children learn why laws are important. They are taught the value and reasons behind the rules, rewards and sanctions set out in the school’s behaviour policy, which are consistently reinforced by all adults. During Well Being Week each year in November, all classes also revisit the important messages about anti-bullying as set out in the school’s policy.

A key value is introduced each week in an assembly as a way of promoting a caring school community and this is discussed in more detail in circle time. Citizen targets of the week also place value on qualities like respect, kindness and thinking of others. Playground commendations are awarded to children for making sensible choices during lunchtime and these are celebrated with extra playtime.

Throughout the year rules governing road safety and fire safety are covered and visits from authorities are arranged to enhance the children’s learning experiences.

Individual Liberty

Our children are actively encouraged to become involved in school life. The school offers a range of clubs run by pupils, teaching staff and experts covering a whole range of interests and the children have the freedom to choose activities.

Children are helped to take on increasing amounts of responsibility for their safety. In PSHE lessons, for example, they are given the chance to think about the consequences of their choices as they participate, for example, in constructed scenarios and E-safety is taught regularly.

We believe it is important to enable all children to take responsibility for their learning. Starting in EFYS we provide a stimulating environment to encourage child initiated play and building on these early experiences we continue to offer children in key stages 1 and 2 the opportunity to choose certain tasks and we give them toolkits so they can access the resources they need to support their learning.

Mutual Respect

A key part of our school ethos is respect for others. Each week we set Good Citizen targets that promote thoughtful behaviour, trying our best and maintaining high standards. We encourage all children to feel proud of their achievements and to celebrate the achievements of others. All adults model respect and tolerance and seek to nurture children's growth in confidence and self-esteem.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Our children have opportunities to experience cultural diversity in a variety of ways across the curriculum, for example through visits to religious buildings, by sharing stories from around the world and through looking at traditional artwork. Important festivals are taught and all pupils are encouraged to share their experiences.

All forms of prejudice are taken seriously and any incidences of prejudice are followed up with discussions in PSHE lessons and in circle time.

