

Promoting British Values at Addington School

The Department for Education 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. At Addington School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is a core value within our school. The school provides opportunities to understand how they can influence decision making through the democratic process. Addington achieves this through a very strong student council with representatives from each class in school. Addington also has a very strong Buddy system. Applications are invited from all interested parties to stand as a school Buddy. The whole process mirrors the political electoral procedure in its process, giving the students a real life understanding of democracy. Addington has strong links with the local authority and the Democratic department. The Mayor attends assemblies and talks to groups and groups of students attend Wokingham Citizenship ceremonies.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Addington. We have a 'Code of Conduct' that is discussed in each class with all individuals. These rules are displayed in each classroom and it helps the students to distinguish between right and wrong. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and the Fire Service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. The local community police have a good link with the school and visits are organised to the Police centre in Reading.

Individual Liberty:

At Addington, 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 accompanying responsibilities and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Students exercise their freedom to make choices of lunchtime and extra-curricular clubs and opportunities. Students are encouraged put themselves forward for student council, school 'Buddies', 'Young Leaders', Sports Ambassadors and House Captains.

Mutual Respect:

Mutual Respect and self-advocacy is at the heart of our school vision and ethos. It is also taught through the 'SEAL' initiative as well as PSHE and Citizenship lessons, School Buddies provide peer support to reduce bullying and nurture groups provide support for vulnerable students. Pupils take an active role part in discussions and assemblies. The whole school takes part in 'Anti-Bullying' sessions and assemblies where the students discuss discrimination, tolerance and the opportunity to give their views. The school constantly promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our code of conduct, classroom and school rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Each class takes part in collective worship at the end of each day which helps to develop relationships and self-esteem.

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. Addington school is committed to the Wokingham anti-bullying strategy. Assemblies and discussions involving tolerance and harmony have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The pupils visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.