

## **How we prepare our children for life in modern Britain and teach about British Values**

1. We have established links with two schools in very different parts of the UK. Since 2010 we have organised visits between our school and a federated school in Aldershot. Each visit involves taking members of the School Council (now known as Children's Voice) to Aldershot where we plan joint activities with our friends there. These visits are reciprocated so that we share two days a year together. The visiting school leads an assembly about some aspect of local life in Dorchester or Aldershot. This might be about local history, geography or pride in our local football team. Each visit involves teachers from each school leading activities with children from both schools. This has covered our joint commitment to being Rights Respecting Schools, the Olympic and Paralympic values, World Heritage sites and "Proud to be me!" We have communicated by letter since 2012 with a school in Bolton which while being a church school has a predominantly Muslim community. The older two classes in our school have written and received letters sharing what is common about our lives, sharing information about our families, interests, hobbies, favourite books, topics being covered at school etc.
2. As a Rights Respecting School, we have always incorporated ideas about children's universal rights and responsibilities. Using UNICEF's Declaration about the Universal Rights of the Child, we teach children about such things as freedom of expression, respect for other's opinions, freedom of thought, religion and belief and the consequent responsibility to respect the beliefs, cultures and religions of other people.
3. As a Rights Respecting School, we have involved the children in drawing up Class Charters and expect them to understand their responsibility to respect the need for rules, justice and fairness in all aspects of their school.
4. As part of the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership, we have taken on board the Seven Qualities of Citizenship (expressed as the 7 caterpillars) which should control all aspects of children's behaviour and learning. The qualities, which are also adopted as values by the staff and governors of the whole local education community are: Caring, Courteous, Communicative, Co-operative, Considerate, Confident and Conscientious. Children can achieve half termly awards in each class and at the end of each year a Year 4 child is nominated by staff and children to be our Citizen of the Year, who is then presented with an award at a community "Night of the Proms" concert.
5. We have a Children's Voice (previously the School Council) which consists of 2 elected children from Year 1, 4 from Year 2 and 3 and 4, plus 4 Year 4 children chosen by staff as Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors and Eco Champions. The Voice meets regularly throughout the year and discusses a wide range of topics such as providing views about teaching and learning, feedback and marking, how to improve the school, and how to raise money for local, national and international charities which the children choose.
6. Our RE curriculum, based upon the Local Agreed Syllabus, provides a structured approach to the teaching of major world faiths especially Christianity, Islam Hinduism and Judaism. As a Community School, with a very low proportion of families professing any religious faith at all, we

provide children with opportunities to develop their knowledge about different religions, to understand the differences and similarities between them and also for them to consider what faith, beliefs and religion may mean to them, as well as fully accepting individual's rights to make up their own minds including their right not to believe. Our curriculum provides opportunities for children to visit places of worship although this has to be through "virtual tours" for faiths other than Christianity. We always arrange annual visits to the school from representatives of faith communities including Jews, Hindus and Buddhists. Our extensive links with communities in Karnataka, India, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Kenya through the headteacher's visits and contacts also allows us to explore how faith is expressed in other countries.

7. Our Collective Worship Policy also provides many opportunities for opening up discussion and reflection about universal human values that British people subscribe to. We use the Salisbury Diocese "Values for Life" scheme which covers 18 values such as Honesty, Truth, Service etc.
8. We also use a carefully thought out and detailed programme for Personal, Social, Health and Emotional education called Jigsaw, which covers many aspects of moral, social and cultural development. This is taught on a weekly basis and each half term all the classes follow a progressive scheme focusing upon a common theme or "puzzle." This programme not only covers personal development and self-esteem but also respect for and awareness of others.
9. As a school that prides itself on Inclusion, we also attach a great deal of importance to Equality of Opportunity and the rights of all to access everything that our school has to offer. We believe that our inclusion of children with complex physical, medical and communication needs leads to a great sense of awareness of the idea of different but equal, that everyone has the right to participate in our community.
10. The headteacher has recently led a series of assemblies about universal values to which British people subscribe. These have covered:
  - The idea of service "Ich Dien" (how we can serve our community)
  - Justice, Fairness and the rule of law and why we should respect it (and the link with our class charters)
  - Democracy (and the link with our Children's Voice)
  - Equality of Opportunity (particularly for our disabled children)
  - Our right in this country to follow the religion of our choice (or none)
  - Liberte (freedom), Egalite (equality) and Fraternite (friendship)
11. Our choice of topics to ensure coverage of the history and geography curriculum also provides opportunities to discuss ideas of right and wrong, freedom and slavery, equality in terms of race and gender.
12. We have regular "themed weeks" where the timetable is relaxed and these have included recently a "Proud to be me!" week to explore our family heritages, a "One World, One Country" week to explore issues of similarities and differences. In recent years The Olympic and Commonwealth Games have been used to explore values and the universality of people regardless of nationality.
13. We are proud of our school tradition in raising significant amounts of money for local, national and international charities, usually chosen by the Children's Voice and well supported by the parent community. This is an indication of our we put into practice the notion of service to others.

14. Our school includes a small percentage of families from ethnic minorities, all of whom are thriving in terms of academic achievement and involvement in the school community. There are no examples of racist bullying or attitudes.