

Promoting British Values

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 this year (2014). At Pensans, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Each year the children decide upon their class rules and discuss their rights and responsibilities associated with this. All children contribute to this. Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a Parliament and a School Council which discuss issues raised in classes. Councillors and Ministers are elected by the children. We hold an annual survey in which children are able to put forward their views about the school.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day and through the school's Behaviour policy. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules (laws), the responsibilities that these involve and the consequences when rules are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce these messages.

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 young pupils to make choices safely. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to do this safely, for example through e-safety and PSHE. Our Behaviour management focuses on pupils taking responsibility for their own behaviour and the need to make good choices. We also actively promote an anti-bullying culture.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different Faiths and Beliefs

Mutual respect is a key value that we promote throughout the school. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others.

In addition to our RE and PSHE teaching, assemblies are regularly planned to reinforce this either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance are reinforced. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

Pensans is situated in an area which is not greatly culturally diverse, and we therefore place great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. The pupils enjoy a broad and balanced curriculum which celebrates individuality. In addition, we take part in events such as the Black History Month project where the children learned about a range of inspirational figures both past and present and we take opportunities to celebrate such diverse events as the Olympics or the Royal Wedding. Topics studied also include learning about other countries and their beliefs, traditions and customs as well as their geography and history.

We will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.