

The Batt C. E. Primary School

Promoting British Values/Community Cohesion Policy

Introduction

This policy document is intended to help all those involved in the school community understand how the school promotes British values and community cohesion within the wider context of the school community.

Rationale and Context

This policy has been drawn up in line with recent DfE guidance which sets out 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 were reiterated last year (2014). At The Batt these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. Our School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council has its own budget and is able to genuinely effect change within the school. The two council members for each class are voted in by their peers.

Each year the children decide upon their class charter or behaviour code and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the charter. Children are often given opportunities 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 regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind 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 Fire Service help reinforce this message.

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, through provision of a safe environment and empowering 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 Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE) lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values and ethos. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

The Batt School is situated in an area which is not greatly culturally diverse, therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Activities are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSCHE teaching reinforce this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

At The Batt School we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

Scope of the Policy

For the policy to have effect, it must impact upon the whole of the school's life, including:

- progress, attainment, and assessment;
- behaviour, discipline, and exclusion;
- pupils' personal development and pastoral care;
- teaching and learning;
- admission and attendance;
- the curriculum;
- staff induction and professional development; and
- partnerships with parents and guardians, and local, national and international communities.

Provision

British values and community cohesion are promoted through a variety of means, including:

- Through the curriculum, e.g. Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE), RE, topics such as 'Around the World';
- Curricular enrichment, e.g. learning about important events from other cultures such as Chinese New Year, visits to places relating to other cultures;
- Links with family, including visits into the school from family members;
- Links with local, national and global organisations, other schools (local, national and global), other agencies/services; Eg, the school choir singing at local organisations;
- Other communities which use the school, e.g. for sport, faith etc.;
- Training to ensure that staff are aware of their responsibility in promoting British values and community cohesion.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

The implementation of this policy is monitored, and its effectiveness assessed, by the Governors' Performance and Standards Committee, staff and the Senior Leadership Team.

Opportunities for pupils to reflect upon and evaluate the impact of policy on shaping their community are given to the School Council.

Date Written/Reviewed: February 2015

Date for next review: February 2018

Reviewed by: P & S Governors