

Promoting British Values at Meldreth Primary School

At Meldreth Primary School we uphold and teach pupils about the British Values which are defined as:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

These values are taught explicitly through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE), and Religious Education (RE). We also teach British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced creative curriculum which includes real opportunities for exploring these values.

The school takes further opportunities to actively promote British Values through our assemblies and whole school systems and structures such as electing and running a successful School Council. Actively promoting British Values also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

Democracy

Democracy is an important value at our school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our **School and Anti-bullying Councils**. The elections of members of the School and Anti-Bullying Council are based on pupil votes and general or local elections (such as our recent Scottish referendum) are used as opportunities to hold mock elections or promote fundamental British values and provide pupils with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view. The children have worked together to produce a **Children's Charter of Rights** and **Anti-Bullying Charter** which we at Meldreth Primary School actively work and live by. This is displayed in each classroom is actively used by children and adults to influence others' behaviour.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days. Our '**Peer Mentoring**' system for behaviour is aligned to our Children's Charter and Anti-Bullying Charter. 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** are regular parts of our calendar and 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 our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment, a planned curriculum and an empowering education. This can be seen during **Nature Detectives** sessions in Melwood, where children are taught to risk assess activities and their environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our **e-safety teaching** and **PSHE lessons**. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, e.g. signing up for **extra-curricular clubs**, choose the level of challenge in some lessons and are becoming increasingly more involved in **child-initiated learning**.

Mutual Respect

Respect is one of the core values of our school. This can be seen and felt in our pervading ethos in school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. The **core value** of respect at Meldreth Primary School underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom. Children and adults alike, including visitors are challenged if they are disrespectful in any way. Values are highly visible around the school and can be seen in posters, certificates and as part of our agreed codes.



Tolerance of Those with 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 diversity in our local community which is 78.2% White British. **Assemblies** and **discussions** involving prejudices and prejudiced-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. We use teaching resources and artefacts from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a **range of faiths and cultural beliefs** including resources from groups in our local community. It is our aim to further develop tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. We celebrate '**European Day of Languages**' as a whole school encouraging children to research and discover differences and similarities between us and our European neighbours. Likewise we use opportunities such as the **Olympics** and **World Cup** to study and learn about life and culture in countries who participate. We employ teachers, teaching assistants and support staff who have English as an Additional Language bringing a varied cultural experience to Meldreth Primary School.