

# TEACHING BRITISH VALUES

## Promoting British Values at Christ Church

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 by the Prime Minister this year. At Christ Church these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

### Democracy:

The whole school ethos actively promotes democracy. The pupils know and understand that there are both formal and informal channels of having their voice heard. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council (elected by the children), pupil questionnaires and through the 'Pupil Voice' boxes. Playground Friend positions are selected after an application form has been submitted and an interview has been completed. They know that the selection is based on 'the best man' for the job.

### The Rule of Law:

The importance of rules or laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, the behaviour policy and through school assemblies. Pupils collaboratively write their own class rules to instill a sense of ownership and contribution in voicing how the school should be run. Class rules are then signed by the pupils. They 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, Fire Service etc. 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 young pupils in which to make safe choices, through providing a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and they are advised on how to exercise these safely e.g. through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, or participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

### **Mutual Respect:**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around core values such as respect. Pupils regularly take part in discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behavior policy. As a highly inclusive school, our pupils know and understand that people are different and that to treat people fairly does not always mean treating them the same. The children willingly accept adaptations and adjustments that some of their peers enjoy. The school has many catalogued letters/emails regarding the behaviour of our children towards one another and to the wider community.

### **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. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. We have an annual Black History month and we have an annual Eid assembly and Eid feast. Our display boards acknowledge events such as Chinese New Year and the recognition British Saints. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Our RE curriculum includes the opportunity for pupils to visit a place of worship from each major faith.

We promote understanding and acceptance through all our teaching.

