

BRITISH VALUES AT BOOTH WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 Booth Wood Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is rife within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil questionnaires. The elections of Head Boy, Head Girl, House Captains and Sports Captains, are based solely on the democratic process with children giving speeches and elections then occurring. The majority of policies is debated widely and incorporates pupil voice as children, parents, governors and staff work together to put policy into practice. We also have annual pupil questionnaires where they are able to put forward their views about the school, behaviour, teaching and learning. At Booth Wood Primary, we listen to all of the views of the children, they debate issues taking both sides for and against, and the children express their views peacefully and wholeheartedly get involved. Our Key Stage Two children also visit the Houses of Parliament each year in London to see how Democracy works first hand and we have strong links with our local politicians. Year Two children also visit our local Chambers to see how democracy is undertaken in our community too.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Booth Wood Primary. This is undertaken through regular school PSHE lessons, as well as when discussing behaviour and through whole 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, Ambulance and Fire Services help reinforce these issues. Through our SMSC lessons, children also understand the laws of different religions and how to uphold and respect other people’s beliefs and laws governing how they should live. Pupils are involved in deciding class rules and pupil charters linked to anti-bullying and SMSC outcomes which also have a direct link to the rules of our playground and safety.

Individual Liberty:

At Booth Wood Primary, 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 informed choices, through of provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know,

understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices and to respect the decisions and choices of others. The children are responsible for their own behaviour, we challenge stereotypes and bias, we are an anti-bullying school, we promote self knowledge, self esteem and self confidence and we model freedom of speech in a peaceful manner.

Mutual Respect:

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Relationships', and pupils have been part of 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 behaviour policy. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and encourage each other to be respectful and will challenge each other when respect has not been given. We have respect for our own and others' cultures and we discuss differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender and families.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

Booth Wood is a diverse school. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. We also achieve this 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. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Our Pupil Parliament will give the opportunity to ensure that all faiths and beliefs are valued. Through our RE curriculum, which teaches the main faiths and focuses upon learning about religion and learning from religion, we promote tolerance of the beliefs of others.

This position statement has been supported by material from the Department of Education November 2014 document 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools'.