

Promoting British Values at Winterbourne Valley CE VA First 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 and in the DfE document ‘Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in Schools (November 2014). At Winterbourne Valley CE VA First School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

- **Democracy:**

Democracy is encouraged within the school. We are a Level 1 Rights Respecting School and each class has a charter which all have agreed and signed about how best to conduct ourselves at school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. The elections of School Councillors and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the School Council are based solely on pupil votes. Additionally have a Friendship Squad who are trained in mediation and these children help with any conflicts at playtimes. We also send out regular questionnaires to ascertain children’s thoughts and put any ideas into action.

- **The Rule of Law:**

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the playground, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days and visits from the police and fire service etc. 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.

- **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 SCARF PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. We have a strong anti-bullying culture where pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour. Pupil self-esteem and self-confidence are paramount.

- **Mutual Respect:**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around our Learning Values (being co-operative, conscientious, courteous, considerate, communicative, caring and confident). Pupils have been part of discussions and Collective Worship related to what this means and how it is shown, this is reiterated through our classroom and learning charters, as well as our behaviour policy.

- **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. Collective Worship and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying is also supported by learning in Religious Education and SCARF lessons (Personal, Social and Health Education). Religious festivals are observed, both as part of RE and as part of British cultural tradition. Any prejudices or discriminatory behaviours are extremely rare but would be promptly challenged.