

LEARNING TO LIVE IN MODERN BRITAIN - TEACHING BRITISH VALUES

Promoting British Values at Hookstone Chase 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 recently reiterated (2014). At Hookstone Chase, these values are promoted in so much of what we do and are reinforced regularly through our own school values and our planned programme of assemblies as well as our curriculum provision which includes SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural Education), PHSC (Personal, Health, Social, Citizenship Education) and SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and RE (Religious Education).

Below are a few examples of how we promote British Values and prepare our children to live in Modern Britain.

Democracy

At Hookstone Chase, we take care to ensure that children, staff and parents have many opportunities for their voices to be heard.

- Each year the children decide upon their class charter and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the charter.
- We have a school council which meets every month to discuss issues concerned with school improvement. Every child on the school council is voted in by their class and House Captains are also voted for by their peers.
- Children have contributed to the development of our school values.
- The children have been actively involved in the recruitment of teachers.
- All the children are instrumental in our Curriculum Design, collecting their ideas together in the “Curriculum Suitcase.” At the beginning of each term the children take part in “I know, I wonder...” activities which gives them the opportunity to shape the curriculum and decide what they would like to learn.

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility as well as promoting positive partnership working.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Hookstone Chase Primary School. A clear Behaviour Policy is in place and pupils are supported by staff and the School Buddies to follow the behaviour guidelines. From an early age, pupils are taught the rules of the school. These include our School Expectations and E – Safety Rules. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Work with outside agencies such as the Police, Fire Service, Social Care and Child Line can help to reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

At Hookstone Chase, 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 a safe environment and an 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 PSHCE lessons.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. As an inclusive school, all members of the school community treat each other with respect. Our Home School Agreement promotes mutual respect and positive partnership working. Through our Eco Schools work, we encourage our children to take responsibility for their environment and to understand that their treatment of it, has an impact on its future.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Hookstone Chase School welcomes and promotes diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Assemblies, Religious Education lessons and PSHCE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others.