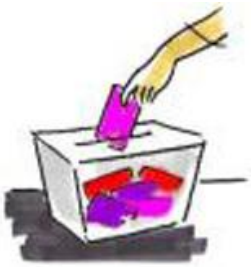
Teaching British Values

Promoting British Values at Coppice 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 Coppice Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:



Democracy is encouraged throughout the school. In each year group the children decide upon their school council representatives through a fair voting system based solely on pupil votes then through class council meetings our pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard, these views are then taken to our School Council meetings. Our school council is run as a parliament with children taking on ministerial roles and responsibilities within it. During circle time all children are given opportunities to speak in an informal and secure setting.
Class rules and the rights and responsibilities associated with these are drawn up collaboratively with the children and every class member and staff that teach within the class signs up to these rules. All children have the opportunity to talk to senior staff regularly through the use of pupil voice interviews. During this time they are able to share their views regarding the learning environment, teaching and learning at school and our behaviour and reward systems.

Individual Liberty:

Within our school, pupils understand that they should feel proud of all the communities to which they belong. We teach the children that we are all citizens of the school and as such they are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.
Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Children are able to make choices freely throughout the day which actively impacts upon how work is recorded and through discussion around the choices they took when behaving in a range of situations.

The Rule of Law:

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. Regular visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. In addition to this children also learn about how our countries rules were developed and how these reflected the beliefs and values of the period.

- **Mutual Respect:**

Much of our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around Core Values 'Respect' being one of these. Through discussions and assemblies we explore what this means and how this can be shown to others. Respect is promoted around the school and is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules; our daily conversations and expectations as well as through our behaviour policy. Annual events such as Anti-bullying week and friendship week are celebrated and marked by all members of the school community

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

At Coppice Primary School we value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all our pupils and families we undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate these. This approach is enriching for all our pupils as it teaches tolerance and respect for the differences in our community and the wider world. Through our assemblies and discussions in Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education we have followed up and supported pupils to have a better understanding of the faiths of others, often dispelling prejudice by ensuring a better understanding. Members of different faiths or religions via the local community and the Open Centre in Derbyshire are invited into school and encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

British Values and the Curriculum

This is underpinned by a range of curriculum topics which have strong links to the British Empire.

In KS2, pupils undertake an intense topic about World War Two and the impact that the military had in fighting for the British Empire.

In KS1, there is a strong focus on the work of Florence Nightingale and how she assisted British soldiers in Scutari so they could convalesce after being injured.

Throughout our English curriculum we study the works of English writers and poets and spend time discussing the impact of their work on British society as a whole as well as at a personal level.

In History lessons we focus on important moments throughout British history and teach the events chronology to the children in order for them to gain an understanding of how Britain came to be: from the early British settlers, to the British Empire and up to modern day Britain.

Pupils learn how the lives of key people, their deeds and accomplishments, impacted on the development of British society. Cross-curricular links are made to engage the children further in their learning and encourage them to think and question.