

The Promotion of Fundamental British Values at RNIB Three Spires

Introduction

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 this year (2014). We mark our overall commitment to with a whole school display celebrating fundamental British values with Union Flag borders to challenge any remaining perceptions that this flag is owned by far right extremists, rather than owned by the country. However, our main approach is to embed our commitment into the everyday life of our school through the curriculum, assemblies, special events as well as our ethos as detailed below. We also take advantage of opportunities to celebrate notable events which help define our national values, for instance, Remembrance Sunday is marked through a special school assembly and this year the school choir learned traditional WWI songs and the WW1 truce was featured in the KS2 Christmas production in line with the marking of the 100 years since the outbreak of that war. Each class has also produced a display which details how they celebrate British Values every day.

Fundamental Values

1. Democracy:

The school has a democratically elected student council which meets every month to discuss issues which are important to the running of the school. The pupil representatives are required to consult with their peers about issues which are important to them

including what they'd like to see change, if anything makes them unhappy etc.

Recently the student council undertook a review of the school dinner menu, consulting with the whole school body as to what they would like to see being served. This has been forwarded to the headteacher who has shared it with the business manager to assist in negotiating the school suppliers.

2. The Rule of Law

Classes establish rules which are emphasised to pupils throughout the year. This includes rules for common areas such as playground time. This is promoted by a whole school assembly in September when pupils are reminded of the school rules. Pupils are awarded stamps towards gold star awards when they work well within the class, ignore silly behaviour etc.

3. Individual Liberty

Pupils have the opportunity to exercise choice during their school day. For instance, activity during golden time or during school meals.

4. Mutual Respect

We organise a series of cultural days to enrich the curriculum and to celebrate different cultures. There will be an Indian dance day with outside dancers coming into school in February 15. In January 15, we are celebrating Italy through a themed menu. We will continue to develop this through this and subsequent academic years.

We understand the need to support others in our community and

undertake fundraising for worthy causes such as MacMillan (wear something green) and for Children in Need.

We hold a whole school assembly about being a good friend as well as being kind (ie anti-bullying). Gold stars can be earned by helping others. Themes of fundamental British Values such as trying your best, celebrating differences and tolerance also feature as themes for assemblies. In February, the school will mark Chinese New Year as well as Purim.

5. Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

The school's ethos is that every individual is valued and diversity is to be celebrated and respected. This is reinforced through RE lessons which cover the main faiths. Each is afforded equal respect and opportunities to mark this are sought. The school has started a monthly summary of notable days along with information for teachers. On the day in question, as part of circle time, teachers talk about the importance of the day for the religious group e.g. 6th March 15 (Holi (Hindu/Sikh)), 18th June 15 (Ramadan begins (Islam)). Where possible, these days are brought to life within the school. For instance, the festival of Diwali is celebrated throughout the school, particularly at KS1 level which includes pupils learning about Diwali, dressing in a range of different ethnic dress as well as a celebration through dance. (The monthly summaries also feature important events such as 21 May 15, World Cultural Diversity Day, 21 Sept 15 International Day of Peace.)

In a highly multicultural school in Britain, we do come together to collaborate to celebrate a broadly Christian-based Christmas including KS 1 and KS2 productions such as a Wiggly Nativity.

Our complex needs class have a schedule of visits to mosques, temples, shrines and churches as part of their RE and social excursions throughout the school year.

The school actively celebrates, in a traditional British way, harvest. An assembly is held, families make donations for the homeless and a class bakes traditional harvest bread.

Examples from Classes

Gold Class (Yr5/6): Throughout the year RE covers all religions and the emphasis is tolerance of all faiths. Through Emotional Literacy/PHSE we cover choosing, respect, loyalty, friendship, proud and being ashamed.

In Geography we study the lives of people in other countries and what makes people move to other countries whilst in History we have studied different periods of History that are important to understanding how our country has become multicultural. Victorian Empire which then became The Commonwealth, World War I and II. Ancient Greece which has influences on how we live today. Music- studying the different types of music and different instruments related to countries.

Finally, Espresso News which looks at the News Events of the week. We talk about what is in the news and discuss any issues that need to be clarified- recently the people killed in France. I talk to the children about what has happened and about how they need to consider the feelings of everyone. What makes people act as they do?

Blue Class (Yr 4-6) Complex Needs: We are making a tactile Union flag for display in our classroom and are promoting our British Values of Effective Learners, Responsible Citizens and Good Citizens by our class values of Good Sitting, Good Listening, Good Working and Good Signing.