

Wymeswold C of E Primary School

**Promoting British Values**

February 2022

Our government believes that, ‘British society is founded on fundamental values and principles, which all those living in the UK should respect and support. These values are reflected in the responsibilities, rights and privileges of being a British citizen or permanent resident of the UK. They are based on history and traditions and are protected by law, customs and expectations. There is no place in British society for extremism or intolerance.’

The values we support are not unique to Britain and are shared by many people in the world.

We support the values of democracy, rules of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs and these are embedded within our curriculum. These values are reflected in our own Christian Values of Joy, love, Peace, Hope, Justice, Kindness, Honesty, Trust and Self Respect.

Our Collective Worship plan reflects our Christian Values and within them we talk the British Values. We also plan PSHE lessons that teach the children about our values, respecting similarities and differences, tackling stereotypes and understanding why some people discriminate. Our RE lessons follow the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus which teaches tolerance and understanding of others. We aim to empower children to have a voice and to stand up against discrimination, valuing equality, tolerance and mutual respect. The topics and lessons in the school’s curriculum are designed carefully and planned by teachers to provide a rich learning experience that will have a positive impact on pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Whilst focusing on all children developing good skills in English and Maths and all subjects, we also offer extra-curricular clubs including a number of sports clubs and other arts interests, and peripatetic music lessons. Visits are planned linking with the class topic to provide children with further understanding of the world they live in. We also link with other schools to take part in sporting events. Competitions provide the opportunity for children to meet other children from different schools whilst experiencing the process of decision making and understanding rules and fairness.

As well as promoting British values we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including ‘extremist’ views and principles.

**Overview**

Being part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Wymeswold. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year; for example, Diwali, Chinese New Year and celebrations at Christmas. We also value and commemorate national events such as Remembrance Day.

Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Two specific examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

Geographically: Our topics include aspects that teach children about Britain:

•its coasts, rivers and mountains

•where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world

Historically: Key moments in British history are studied in all classes of the school.

**British values**

Democracy

Democracy is embedded in the school.  Pupils are 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 and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.  There are elected School Councillors and Anti-Bullying representatives. The Year 6 children also act as buddies for the Class 1 children. Year 6 children have greater responsibilities such as; House Captains, leading clubs, monitors in assembly. We believe that encouraging our children to take on responsibilities and to work together for the good of the school creates positive relationships and is a valuable preparation for future life in our democratic society.

The rule of law

In order to help children understand how society cannot operate without a set of laws, we teach them how our school rules create an ordered, fair and safe place in which to learn. The class rules are agreed by the children and are display in classrooms. We help children to distinguish right from wrong.

Individual liberty

Our children have the opportunity to make individual choices and express opinions that develop their character and self-belief. However, they are encouraged to develop these qualities in the context of the rights and needs of other members of our school community. We model freedom of speech through pupil participation in class in the context of a safe, fair, supportive and ordered learning environment. We discuss and challenge stereotypes and implement a strong anti-bullying culture.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Respect is one of the core values of our school as can be seen in our motto “Treat others as you wish to be treated.” Children are encouraged to respect themselves and to respect individual differences. This is a fundamental principle that is put into practice in the classroom, around school, in the playground and in assemblies. We help our children to acquire an understanding of, and respect for their own and other cultures and ways of life. We aim to develop a relationship with another school in a contrasting area, visit a range of places of worship and welcome visitors who can widen our children’s horizons even further. We believe that through our formal and “hidden curriculum” our children gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. Our aim to prepare children for the future drives us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. This will be particularly necessary in a future where due to technological advances will make the 'world a smaller place.'

Extremism

The school is aware of the need to be vigilant when it comes to extreme attitudes or behaviour of any kind and appropriate actions will be taken accordingly. All staff are aware of the need to report concerns of this nature. Our overriding aim is to teach children to be resilient to such attitudes. This involves pupils being taught how to ask probing questions and make sound judgements for themselves about what is right and wrong.