

Promoting Fundamental British Values



The DfE have reinforced the obligation for 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. Actively promoting these values means challenging opinions and behaviours that are contrary to, or undermine, these values. At Dunmow St Mary’s Primary, these values are reinforced regularly through SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) themes, these are planned for across all areas of learning and school life and ensures pupils are aware of the history and values of Britain and are prepared for life in modern Britain. We aim to help pupils understand the role of British values in society and this is done in the following ways:

Democracy

Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and understand how they can contribute positively to society. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Class Council and Pupil Voice meetings and also through Pupil questionnaires and interviews. They are taught about democracy and how it works in our country. The elections of Pupil Voice representatives are based on pupil votes.

The Rule of Law

The importance of rules, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through assemblies. Pupils are taught to distinguish right from wrong and to understand reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when the laws are broken. Visits from the authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help to emphasise how living under the rule of law is essential for wellbeing and safety.

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 the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and how to exercise these safely, for example through our E Safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of Different Faith and Beliefs

As a Church school, our ethos and behaviour policy revolves around Christian Values such as “Respect”, and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. We develop children’s knowledge, understanding, and awareness of Christianity as the predominant religion in Great Britain, and of the other principal religions represented in this country.

In Humanities lessons and, particularly, RE there are opportunities for enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. Opportunities are given for pupils to experience such diversity, for example, visits to places of worship other than Churches. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths, religions and cultures within school are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning and to promote harmony and respect between different cultural traditions.