



Promoting British Values at Shepherd Primary School

November 2014

Our mission statement is:

Our school community is committed to providing education of the highest quality that supports challenges and inspires all children to achieve confidently within a happy and safe environment.

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 by the Prime Minister this year. At Shepherd Primary School, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

At the start of each school year, pupils are involved in a democratic voting system, whereby they vote for various members of their class to represent the whole class in a wide variety of school action groups. These include House Captains and Vice Captains, Prefects, School Council Representatives, School Nutritional Action Group (SNAG) and Eco-Watchers. We believe in 'leadership for all' and therefore ensure that all pupils in each class have responsibilities which they are chosen for by their peers, for example, monitoring cloakroom tidiness.

The School Council vote to elect a Chair and Secretary each year who are consequently responsible for leading meetings (supervised by a member of staff) and creating notes and follow up actions which are then discussed with the Head Teacher or relevant member of staff. The school council discuss and vote on important school decisions on behalf of their peers at regular meetings.

In addition to School Council Reps putting forward the opinions of their peers in the school community, pupils are also encouraged to voice their opinions by using termly themed 'Pupil Voice' boxes which are located in the school library and dining hall. Pupil's opinions on important subjects are sought and then acted upon in a timely manner.

Playground mediators are trained annually to be responsible for assisting with resolving disputes on the playground in a democratic way.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, 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 school assemblies. Our 'Good to be Green' behaviour system clearly promotes pupil choices and consequences. 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; PCSOs etc. are a regular part of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

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 pupils to make choices safely, through a provision of a safe environment and empowering education and extracurricular activities. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety, PE and PSHCE/SEAL lessons. Whether it be through choice of activity, of how they record, or participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

Our school community (pupils, staff, parents and governors) aims to:

- **Learn and grow together within a safe, caring and happy environment**
- **Encourage achievement in all aspects of school life**
- **Motivate all pupils with a broad and challenging curriculum**
- **Treat everyone with honesty and respect**
- **Ensure opportunities for all**

This is supported by our twelve school Core Values;

Safety, happiness, confidence, achievement, respect, honesty, care, opportunity, motivation, healthy living, teamwork and friendship.

Our school values are underpinned through many aspects of school life, particularly PSHCE/SEAL, where each Core Value is carefully linked to a SEAL theme each half term, on a two-year rolling programme.

Our school environment, class discussions, our curriculum, assemblies, themed days, class rules and whole school Smart Moves all promote and support the notion of mutual respect. Our pupils know what this means and how it is shown.

Through study of British and world history, our pupils learn how events in the past impact on how we live our lives today.

By raising money for various charities through a wide range of pupil led events, an awareness and mutual respect is built up for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHCE/SEAL.

The school library has a selection of dual language books linking to languages spoken by our EAL pupils. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school and parents are asked to help by sharing their expertise and artefacts in assemblies and in class.

Displays around the school embrace cultural diversity and many areas in school are signposted in French as well as English as this is our chosen Modern Foreign Language. Our annual Enterprise Week is usually based around themes and traditions from other countries and this year we will be holding our first European Day of Languages.