

British Values at Renishaw 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
- mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.'

These are values that have a central place in the way our children learn and in the content of our curriculum at Renishaw Primary. Our rolling programme for PSHE which is available on our website shows the topics that we address at different points in the cycle.

However, this is only a small part of what happens at our school!

Democracy:

Democracy is rife within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Pupil Council and Pupil questionnaires. The elections of House Captains and School Councillors as well are based solely on pupil votes. The children learn about, and practise, democracy through visits from local councillors and Members of Parliament as well as other visitors, through having their own voices heard in decision making process and voting for what happens in their school by meeting with the Full Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team

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. 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; Lifeguards etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. The children learn about the importance of laws in the class, the school and the wider community, through the exercise of a fair behaviour policy and opportunities for discussion in PSHE and assemblies.

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 provision of a safe environment and empowering education. 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 and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect:

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and 'Pride' pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy and Anti Bullying work.

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 PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

Our PSHE and RE curricula seek to enhance pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society, along with discussions, visits, visitors and the modelling of a tolerant and accepting attitude.

At Renishaw Primary School we value the backgrounds of all pupils and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate these. We have found this approach to be enriching for all parties as it teaches tolerance and respect for the differences in our community and the wider world. Underpinning this is a range of curriculum topics which have strong links to the British Empire and British values.

In Year 6 for example, pupils undertake an intense topic about London and the British Monarchy. This is linked with the annual Poppy Day celebrations where children purchase poppies and a minute's silence is held in specially created assemblies for the school for the infants and a formal ceremony at the Renishaw Memorial which is attended on the Sunday by our School Council and by all of the junior children on the 11th November each year

As a whole school, we have celebrated the Olympics, with Olympic themed sports days, competitions to design sports kits and opportunities to learn about the history of Olympians in this country. Our local residents are former members of Team GB and visit the school regularly to support Paralympic and inclusive sports as well as supporting Gifted and Talented Athletics programmes.

More recently, we celebrated the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the birth of Prince George with special assemblies and themed lessons. The Golden Jubilee was a huge event for the school, with parents invited to a 'street party' event held in the playgrounds. Traditional children's party food of jelly and ice-cream, jam sandwiches and cloudy lemonade were served to all.

On a more general level, the school undertakes daily assemblies which uphold traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance. These are also taught within formal SEAL, PSHE and RE lessons and on an informal nature throughout the school days.