

British Values at Itchingfield 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”. The importance of these values has been reiterated by the Prime Minister.

The DfE says that the government’s five part definition of ‘British Values’, as set out in its 2011 Prevention Strategy, is:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

We have embedded these values throughout our school, both within and beyond the curriculum.

British Values in our Curriculum

- PSHE units ‘Getting on and Falling Out’ are taught in every year group. These have been planned to teach children the importance of tolerance, respect and acceptance of people different from themselves.
- ‘Community’ is a driver throughout our Curriculum. This ensures that staff consider opportunities to foster a greater tolerance and understanding of those from different cultures and with different beliefs to those of our pupils. These opportunities are planned and delivered through our foundation subjects – for example, when learning about gods in Ancient Egypt, or when learning about the Roman ruling system in year five.
- Our teaching of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education across the whole school curriculum actively promotes all of the identified British Values.
- Individual liberty is taught through e-safety and PSHE lessons that advise pupils on how to safely exercise their rights and personal freedoms.
- Our broad and balanced RE curriculum enables pupils to learn about and respect the beliefs of those from many different faiths.

Beyond the Curriculum

- Democracy is promoted through our school council system, whereby children elect a representative to act as their ‘voice’ on key school issues. Classes also vote for rewards during Golden Time.
- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire services reinforce the importance of the rule of law.
- Our school ethos and behaviour policy has ‘respect for others’ as a core value.
- 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.
- Whether it is through choice of challenge, how they record their work or of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices throughout their time at Itchingfield Primary School.
- School assemblies are timetabled to specifically focus on key areas regarding British Values, with children across the school learning about the values and their importance in a variety of ways. Assemblies also cover key religious festivals across the year along with themes regarding friendship, tolerance and respect.