

Promoting British Values at Sun Hill Junior School

The DfE has 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."

Sun Hill Junior School is committed to making a positive contribution to its community and surrounding areas. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom, and celebrates the diversity that brings.

The school accepts admissions from all those entitled to an education under British law, including pupils of all faiths or none. It follows the policies outlined by its governing body regarding equal opportunities, which guarantee that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools as part of an effective SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural) provision. These include:

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

Democracy

Democracy is common within the school where there are a range of democratic processes and the opportunity to engage in freedom of speech and group action. These include:

- Electing school councillors in each class
- School council – suggesting and leading changes
- Electing House team captains
- Pupil questionnaires
- Lessons and debates about local and national issues or events
- Philosophy for Children
- Applying for positions of responsibility/monitor roles

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced throughout the school day, particularly when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Specific examples include:

- School Rules written by the School Council in 2012
- Behaviour Policy
- Lessons on rights and responsibilities
- Use of rewards and sanctions
- Behaviour scale which encourages the concept of redemption and making amends

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 are advised how to exercise these safely; for example through E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how

they record, or participation in our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, all pupils are given the freedom to make choices and taught to consider the consequences of these.

Increasingly, we are promoting 'Independence' as one of our core values which means the children will take more responsibility for their choices, whether personal or curricular, and the outcomes of their decisions.

Mutual Respect

Showing respect in how we treat others is a key part of our school ethos and behaviour policy. Pupils are regularly part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. These ideas are reiterated through the school and classroom rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Additional support is provided for individual pupils, through our Emotional Literacy Support trained staff as well as our Pastoral Support Worker. This support helps to develop self-esteem and to practise strategies pupils can employ to help improve their respect of others.

All adults are required to demonstrate respect in the way that they treat children and adults in school. We believe strongly in modelling the qualities we expect from the children.

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 providing opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions celebrate differences and tackle prejudice and prejudice-based bullying as necessary. Developing a rich understanding of the beliefs and faiths of others is also part of our RE curriculum and our PSHE curriculum.

We continue to challenge pupils, staff or parents who express views that undermine the rights of others, including 'extremist' views.