



Thursday 2nd May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we celebrated British Values Day. I am writing to you to provide you with a greater understanding of these values and the work that we do in school every day to promote these.

Schools are required to provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. Part of this requirement means that they actively promote the fundamental British Values. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and the Prime Minister reiterated these in 2014.

The DFE states that there is a 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 these with different faiths and beliefs".

At Boughton-under-Blean and Dunkirk Methodist Primary School, these link very closely to the culture and ethos of our school and to the Methodist values we promote through the wider curriculum.

Democracy

Our school aims to promote this British Value by demonstrating how democracy works by discussion, decision-making and voting. We aim for our pupils to know that their views count and that their opinions are important. We encourage pupils to make decisions together and to see their role in the school and wider community. We provide opportunities for the children to vote for members of the school council and for choices that affect the whole school community.

The Rule of Law

We aim to promote this British Value by demonstrating a need for rules and laws to help keep us safe. We encourage staff and pupils to work together to create rules for the classroom and playground. We teach the children about the need for rules and how to administer these fairly. We teach the children to understand their own, others' behaviour, feelings, and the consequences. We support our pupils to learn how to distinguish right from wrong.

Individual Liberty

We aim to promote this British Value by individual freedoms to choose faiths, beliefs and likes/dislikes. We provide opportunities for pupils to develop their self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities. We share achievements and successes and promote independence. We encourage children to try a range of different activities and opportunities and to discuss preferences. We attempt to challenge stereotyping and for the children to develop a positive sense of themselves.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

We aim to work as a group to create an environment that includes, values and promotes different faiths, cultures, views and races. We provide opportunities for the children to make links with the wider community including working with charities. We encourage children to learn about other faiths, cultures, traditions, families, communities and ways of life. We encourage

the pupils to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others. We encourage pupils to learn about the world around them- both locally and further afield.

We already do a great deal to promote these British Values in school but a day dedicated to teaching about these was designed to highlight the importance of being good British citizens and to raise the profile of this area of our work with the children.

Highlights of the day have included:

YR- The class learned about the rule of law, thinking about the rules they follow in school. They used the story 'The Rainbow Fish' and the need for us to share and include others to help them understand more about respect and tolerance of others. They talked about how everyone is unique and they celebrated differences.

Y1- The children had a group discussion talking about each of the values and what they are. They focused on the rule of law, why we have rules and what rules they know. They then looked at some photos of the Kings Guard and have begun creating some artwork depicting these for our display.

Y2- The class focused on mutual respect and tolerance using the story of 'The Little Red Hen', thinking how this relates to their own lives. They also linked their learning to the story of St. George and how we can all represent the values of bravery, courage and standing up for what is right.

Y3- The children focused on the rule of law and individual liberty. We discussed the need for rules even when playing games. We thought about what rules we are aware of and who makes these and why. We read the story 'Giraffes can't Dance' and considered how differences should be celebrated.

Y4- The class enjoyed reading the story 'The Day the Crayons Quit' and used this to develop their understanding of democracy through campaigning for the crayons. They then had to create a catchy slogan / chant, produce a poster and write a short speech explaining how the treatment of their coloured crayon needed to change. They shared these in front of the class.

Y5- The children have learned a great deal about the democratic process in this country and created their own political parties. The children had to write manifestos and share these with their peers. The class then voted for their Prime Minister for the day.

Y6- The class learned about democracy including the way our government is elected and the political system in our country. The children then worked in small groups to form political parties, in which they had to come up with their party name, design a rosette for themselves and write a manifesto of promises and policies for their perfect world. They had to come up with some serious policies and some more 'fun' promises and then had to present their policies in a 5 minutes 'speech'. They all voted for a winner using ballot papers.

I hope that the children have enjoyed their learning about British Values.

Kind regards

Mrs Cottenden