

Promoting British Values at Amblecote 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 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 this year (2014).

At Amblecote Primary we understand that the society we live in is diverse and therefore, our curriculum and life within school reflects this. For our pupils, we aim to continually weave the thread of social, cultural, moral and spiritual British values throughout day to day school life. Underpinning this are the values and understanding of democracy, law, liberty, respect, tolerance, tradition and heritage. The 'Equality Act 2010' protects all individuals from discrimination and it is the schools duty to ensure that all individuals have equal access and opportunity to all that is on offer. Funding, including that for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and disadvantaged pupils, is used to target inequalities, to ensure equality.

At Amblecote we uphold and teach pupils about British Values which are defined as:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

These values are taught explicitly through Personal Social Health and Emotional (PHSE) Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) and Religious Education (RE) lessons. We also teach British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The school takes opportunities to actively promote British values through our daily assemblies and the whole school systems and structures such as electing and

running a successful School Council. We also actively promote British values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values. Actively promoting British values means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values including extremist views.

At Amblecote Primary School, British Values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. The elections of the School Council members, House Captains and Eco Warriors are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas and have their voices heard through our School Council and pupil questionnaires. The council meets regularly with the Head teacher to discuss any issues raised in class council meetings. The council is genuinely able to effect change within our school. Members of the school council also have the opportunity to visit our Local Council House, see our local Mayor and visit the Houses of Parliament, in order to help them gain a deeper understanding of democracy in Britain.

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. The children are aware of the consequences of not following the rules in their school community. The children learn to understand the difference between right and wrong in all aspects of school life throughout the day. 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, Health and Fire Service, Magistrates service etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

To encourage and promote good behaviour, attitude and work, we have devised a reward system which is consistently followed throughout the school. As a school, we are committed to praising children's efforts. We endeavour to praise the children informally, individually, during group work, in front of the whole class and the whole school and in monthly celebration newsletters. Children are rewarded not only for achievement in curriculum areas, but for behaviour. Rewards are given in the form of stickers, house points and certificates. Children's achievements are also recognised during weekly Praise Assemblies.

Individual Liberty

At Amblecote, our 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 informed choices, through a safe environment and an 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 our teaching of E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Our children are encouraged to give their opinions and share these ideas with due regard for the feelings of others. As part of our PSHE curriculum we place a huge emphasis on the social and emotional learning of our children and feel we send them off to high school as well rounded individuals. At Amblecote Primary, we implement a strong anti-bullying culture - we were one of the first ten schools within the borough to be accredited with the Anti Bullying Pledge Award. We have trained Anti Bullying Ambassadors, who are currently working towards to Princess Diana Anti Bullying Award.

Whether it be through choice of challenge; of how they record their work; participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices and to respect the decisions and choices of others.

We celebrate achievements both in and out of school in assemblies, through certificates and through 'praise postcards' which are sent home, every holiday. All of the children have access to the school Health Visitor when necessary. This helps the children access support in a confidential and supportive way.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Pupils will challenge each other when not showing respect and encourage each other to be respectful.

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, especially parents and other family members are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Our Collective Worship Group will give the opportunity to ensure that all faiths and beliefs are valued. Through our RE curriculum, which teaches the main faiths and focuses upon learning about religion and learning from religion, we actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others.

Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. Throughout school life the children are encouraged to discuss differences between people such as their faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality (where appropriate). They also discuss differences in family life such as looked after children or young carers.

British Traditions and Heritage

We celebrate the role of Britain both historically and in the present. We want pupils to have knowledge of and be proud of their British heritage and the cultural and historical traditions that we are renowned for the world over. This involves celebrating Royal events, Remembrance Day, festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter. We visit the local church twice a year to mark these celebrations. In Year 6, we also commemorate historically significant events, such as Trafalgar Day and Agincourt Day. The children visit places of cultural significance such as The Houses

of Parliament, the theatre, the local council house, other schools, libraries, local shops and community centres.