

Teaching British Values at St Thomas More Primary School

The Government defined British values in their 2011 Prevent Strategy and have provided advice to schools in 'Promoting fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools' (2014)

Schools are required to promote the following British Values:

- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Here at St Thomas More the teaching of these values is embedded into our school ethos, PSHCE and across other areas of the curriculum. We have a dedicated display board which displays the values and is referred to during Collective Worship.

The Values are reinforced regularly in the following ways.

British Value	Definition	How we teach the value
Democracy	An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.	Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a School and Eco Council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in classes. The council members for each year group are voted in by their class. The School and Eco Council is able to affect change within the school and works together to respond to different issues raised. They decide on 3 different charities per year to support and how to fundraise for these.
Rule of law	<p>An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.</p> <p>An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>From Foundation Stage children are taught our Golden Rules. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.</p> <p>Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.</p>
Individual liberty	An understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.	<p>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.</p> <p>Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely. All children take part twice a year in E-Safety activities including national Safer Internet Day. Also through our PSHCE lessons children explore these issues.</p> <p>Pupils are given the freedom to make choices whether it's through participation in different extra-curricular clubs (many run by our older pupils) or through the activities they participate in during Golden Time or through the individual way they complete tasks in class.</p>

<p>Mutual respect</p>	<p>An acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Children explore different Gospel Values each term such as respect, responsibility, friendship. These are shared through Collective Worship and throughout the school day. They are linked to different stories in the bible as well as being explored in practical ways for everyday life.</p> <p>We are also a Fairtrade School which helps children to gain an understanding of the lives of others across the world and practical things we can do to help make a difference.</p> <p>We take part in the national Anti-Bullying week ensuring our children are equipped to recognise and challenge bullying behaviours.</p> <p>Our annual Harvest Festival provides an opportunity to collect different items for our local food bank providing our community with a time to reflect on how we can support and respect those in need around us.</p>
<p>Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs</p>	<p>An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.</p>	<p>St Thomas More School is a school which is not greatly diverse in terms of faith however our community has people from many different countries and cultures.</p> <p>We actively promote diversity through our Multi-Faith week each year where children across the school explore different religions. During this time children explore stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths. Some children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.</p> <p>We also have an annual international food evening run by our Friends celebrating culinary delights from different cultures helping to bring communities together.</p>

At St Thomas More we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.