

Promoting British Values in 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 those values have been reiterated this year (2014). Within our Federation these values are reinforced regularly.

The term British Values might be slightly misleading in that these values are integral to so many countries throughout the world – they differ in no way from the values of the majority of cultures.

The schools have a very strong shared ethos, which underpins everything we do. The Federation motto 'we care' is promoted comprehensively and is at the heart of all its work. Consequently, the ethos is extremely strong and the schools have a very pronounced sense of togetherness.

Our Core Values, which are instilled across school are that we care to:

- **Create an inclusive learning environment, where everyone feels safe, valued and happy and has the opportunities to achieve to the best of their ability**
- **Develop respect, where everyone is valued as an individual and equality is promoted**
- **Encourage high aspirations in order to make a positive contribution within our diverse society**
- **Promote and celebrate a family ethos, where everyone works as a team for the good of everyone else**
- **Develop all staff towards achieving their full potential through positive staff development.**
- **Aim for the highest standards in all aspects of school life**
- **Encourage all to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth**
- **To nurture each individual on their learning journey within our Federation**

Being Part of Britain

As a school we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of all the cultures within our school and what it means to be part of British Society. Though we only have a small number of different nationalities represented in our Federation, we fully embrace and celebrate diversity and the many qualities our 'world-wide connections' bring into our schools.

Our curriculum reflects, celebrates and teaches children about diversity. Children learn about a wide range of traditions, such as Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, Easter, Diwali, Eid and Hanukah. In addition, children learn about each of the six main religions and visit different places of worship.

We have various fundraising activities throughout the year, including Children in Need and Comic Relief, and have supported local Food Bank as well as other charities.

We celebrate International Day annually, through learning about the many different cultures, including UK countries. This is chance for children and their families to contrast, compare, share and celebrate different traditions.

As a school, we always learn about/celebrate key British Events, such as the Olympics in 2012, The Diamond Jubilee in 2013, the Royal Wedding in 2011, Centenary of the outbreak of World War 1 in 2014 and the Grand Depart in 2014. For such occasions, we hold special events and do additional curriculum class work about how such events relate to being British.

In History, children learn about key figures such as Guy Fawkes, Grace Darling, Mary Seacole, Kings and Queens, as well as covering many major British historical eras, such as the Victorians, Tudors and World War 2. Added to this our curriculum covers such topics as childhood through history, homes and houses and ways of life in the past and traditional seaside towns.

Our Geography Curriculum makes many references to the United Kingdom, covering countries that make up the UK, as well as major cities, characteristics of seaside towns, UK study of Wales and comparisons between the UK and other countries, plus weather, rivers and mountains.

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. An obvious example is Nawton's school council, where democratically elected children represent their peers in helping to make school decisions.

At Rosedale, due to low numbers, all children have opportunities to contribute their views within the 'circle-time assembly'.

We have annual questionnaires, for both pupils and parents /carers, which provide us with a real insight into their thoughts on the school.

Rules and Laws

Children are taught the importance of rules and laws and how the ones in school reflect those in our country. As a Federation, we have a set of **Golden Rules**:

- **We are gentle**, we don't hurt others.
- **We are kind and helpful**, we don't hurt anybody's feelings.
- **We work hard**, we don't waste time.
- **We listen**, we don't interrupt.
- **We look after property**, we don't waste or damage things.
- **We are honest**, we don't cover up the truth.

Ofsted recognised, through both school inspections, that very high quality pastoral support offered is reflected in our pupils' excellent personal development. Children were seen to be extremely well behaved, polite and well-mannered and to place high value on achievement.

Children of all ages understand the rules and the reasons behind them and that they are there to keep us safe and happy. Classes also democratically devise their own behaviour systems, including rewards.

We promote and value visits from authority figures in society, such as the Fire Brigade, Community Police Officers, Nurses, Governors and Faith Leaders.

Children are rewarded within school for a wide range of reasons, which demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the rules, i.e. attendance, punctuality, acts of kindness, achievement and good behaviour. These include the 'We Care Award' and 'Star of the week Award'.

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express our views and beliefs as an integral part of what it is to be British. Children may choose to take part in our very wide range of extra-curricular activities. They have a choice of lunchtime play areas and activities. They are involved in their own learning and respond to their learning by feedback systems and self-review of marking.

They are taught how to use their choices and freedoms safely through our curriculum in areas such as e-safety, anti-bullying, sex and relationship education and drugs awareness education.

We always endeavour to embrace the different cultures and beliefs found within our families, our staff and our communities, in order for children to confidently express their individual liberty within their school life.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

We strive to allow our children to grow and develop within a safe, secure and happy environment, where mutual respect and tolerance come as second nature. Our children are taught and know how to show respect to everyone no matter what their differences may be.

We are very proud of some of the comments on our latest Ofsted reports, which clearly demonstrate our mutual respect and tolerance for one another.

We can look to Archbishop Desmond Tutu's 1999 definition of UBUNTU (from the Zulu meaning 'Human-ness')

'We are who we are through other people. We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas you are connected and what you do affects the whole World. When you do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity'

We can look to Barak Obama's comments, made following the death of Nelson Mandela in 2013

'There is a word in South Africa – Ubuntu – a word that captures Mandela's greatest gift: his recognition that we are all bound together in ways that are invisible to the eye; that there is a oneness to humanity; that we achieve ourselves by sharing ourselves with others, and caring for those around us. He not only embodied Ubuntu, he taught millions to find that truth within themselves.'