



BRITISH VALUES STATEMENT

Promoting British Values at Bishops Down 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."

At Bishops Down Primary School, we already promote the core aspects of British values through the SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) work that is integrated throughout every year group. We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff and provide a model of behaviour for pupils.

As a school community, we value and celebrate this country's diverse heritage. Alongside this, we value being part of Britain. In general terms this means that we celebrate traditions in the course of the year, for example, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day. In addition, through the ethos of the school and the systems in place, British values are reinforced in the following ways:

Democracy

The school council, which is elected in a democratic way, is the pupils' opportunity to raise issues, organise events and activities for the school and put forward their suggestions for new initiatives. Through all areas of the curriculum and in all Key Stages, children are taught the importance of listening to others and their viewpoint, allowing the pupils to gain a full understanding of democracy. The school is used as a Polling Station so during election time we exploit this opportunity and use it as a discussion point with the older children.

The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Bishops Down Primary School. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules and values of our school. Staff members reflect upon the values of our school regularly and strongly believe in giving our pupils the best values to strive towards within the school community. The House Points system rewards children for, amongst other things, good work, helpfulness and good levels of effort. Other reward systems take place within the classrooms, engaging pupils and ensuring that outstanding behaviour is consistently rewarded. Equally, the consistency shown in dealing with negative behaviour ensures that all children learn the importance of laws, not just within school but within the community and country.

Individual liberty

Making the right choices and being responsible for them are important principles at Bishops Down Primary School and they are reinforced throughout our Behaviour code. All children receive equal opportunities and are encouraged to be independent in making the choice that is right for them. Our pupils are actively encouraged to make informed choices, knowing that they are in a safe and a supportive environment. We provide boundaries for pupils to do this, thus empowering them to make good decisions. This includes a worry box in each classroom, in which pupils can confidently share any concerns with their class teacher, allowing matters to be dealt with efficiently and securely. Regular input about how to remain safe through PSHE and E-safety sessions is also a priority at Bishops Down, with visits from members of the emergency services, to enhance this importance. We believe that all pupils should be encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms.

Mutual respect

Bishops Down is a fully inclusive school, catering for children with physical disabilities and complex medical needs within a mainstream setting. Mutual respect is at the heart of our aims as a school. Children at Bishops Down Primary School learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. Listening to others and behaving as we would want others to behave towards us are important features of everyday school life. As a school, we believe that mutual respect between pupils and the teacher is paramount. We are proud of our staff community who strive to be great role models for our pupils, ensuring high expectations of respect at all times.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Bishops Down Primary School, we actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. School assemblies, Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Our school is particularly proud of its spiritual, moral, social cultural area that encourages children to be quizzical about those of different faiths and beliefs, through visual, kinaesthetic and auditory resources, allowing children of all abilities to access this opportunity. Additionally, members of different faiths and religions are invited in to speak in class and at whole school assemblies and we encourage those pupils of different faiths and cultures to share their experiences.

British history

Through the study of British history, pupils are taught to understand the different periods in our history in a chronological order. In addition, cross curricular topic work linked to the study of specific periods in British history underpins notions of our shared heritage, values and traditions.

Commitment to charity work

We encourage our pupils to participate in and support good causes and charities. This reinforces that there are large numbers of people both at home and overseas who are much less fortunate than ourselves and who deserve our support. The school supports three main charities a year: a local charity, an overseas charity and a National charity. Pupils are proactive and dedicated to these causes, and have raised a significant amount of money through sponsored reads, cake sales, charity football matches and variety performances, receiving recognition from our local newspaper The Courier for their involvement in fundraising. Both staff and parents are highly involved in the school's commitment to charity work and as a community. We are passionate about continuing to make a difference to those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

All staff at Bishops Down Primary School strive to ensure that our pupils leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and make a positive contribution to our society