

CHILTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Promoting British Values

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."*

Although this is something which is developing in its significance for schools, it is not something new at Chiltern Primary School. British values are promoted in much of what we do, during school assemblies, Religious Education and Personal, Social, and Health Education (PSHE) sessions. The values are integral to our school vision and values.

As well as actively promoting British values, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views.

The British values we promote are not unique to Britain. We acknowledge that they differ in no way from the values of the many countries and the cultural backgrounds represented by families at Chiltern.

Below are just a few examples of how we promote British values. The first section is a general overview; the others are specific expectations set out by Ofsted.

Being part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Chiltern. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year; for example, Harvest Festival during the autumn term, Nativity performance and trips to the pantomime in at Christmas. We also value and celebrate national events.

Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Two specific examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

Geographically: Our rivers, coasts and seaside holiday topics ensure that children have a better understanding of what Britain is, learning more about:

- its coasts, rivers and mountains
- where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world

Historically: Key moments in British history are studied in the topics such as 'Fire of London' and significant historical figures.

Democracy:

Democracy is embedded within the life of the school. Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Chiltern Primary School.

Each year the children decide upon their class rules and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the class rules.

The children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School and Class Council and Pupil Questionnaires. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret using ballot boxes etc. Made up of two representatives from each class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. The council has its own budget and is able to effect change within 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. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

Parents' opinions are welcomed at Chiltern through methods such as questionnaires, surveys and at parents meetings.

The Rule of Law

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses the school rules and class routines, principles that are clearly understood by all and

seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.

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.

These values are reinforced in different ways:

- visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- during Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about
- during other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules

Individual Liberty:

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices and express their views respectfully, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for the children to make safe choices, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual Respect:

Respect and Responsibility are key values which permeate all aspects of school life at Chiltern. They determine the way in which we support and care for each other, for the community and for the environment.

At Chiltern, children learn respect through;

- The promotion of positive relationships.
- The modelling of positive relationships by all adults working in school.
- A detailed and extensive Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum in which children are taught that behaviour has an effect upon those around them and upon their own rights.
- The RE curriculum.
- Other lessons such as English, music and art where we develop awareness of other cultures.
- All other aspects of the curriculum (as successfully working in groups requires respect for each other).
- The work of the school council and class council.
- The positive reward system developed to promote respect.

- Our celebration assemblies when all pupils show respect for the efforts of others.
- Giving responsibility to pupils (team captains, playground buddies, etc.)
- Participation in events organised to raise money for various charities.
- Learning to live with their peers on educational residential visits

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. At Chiltern we do this through:

- The stated aims and values of the school.
- The PSHE curriculum.
- The RE curriculum.
- The Modern Foreign Languages curriculum.
- Themed days such as European Day of Languages and 'Our World' day.
- Educational visits to places of religious worship and visitors from different faiths.
- The school's equal opportunities policy.
- Class and whole school assemblies.
- Festival study and celebration (Divali, Harvest, etc.)
- Work on prejudice-based bullying during anti-bullying week.
- Using world events as opportunities to positively reinforce life and culture in other countries (football world cup, the Olympics, etc.)
- A non-negotiable approach towards the expression of views contrary to our agreed set of values.