



Promoting British Values at Howletch Lane Primary

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 recently by the Prime Minister. At Howletch, we have been accredited with a ‘Rights Respecting Schools Award’ meaning that the core values listed above are already part of the school ethos and everyday life. However these values are also promoted and reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

📄 Democracy:

Democracy is promoted within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and also through filling in pupil questionnaires. The elections of School Council Representatives are based solely on pupil votes as are our School Prefects. School Councillors attend the full meeting of the Governing Body on an annual basis and through this help to inform school improvement planning. Our school also promotes the use of Development / Steering Groups consisting of pupils and adults to help steer school development e.g., the Healthy Schools Development group and the Rights Respecting Schools group.

📄 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 the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and during school assemblies. 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, Fire Service etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

📄 Individual Liberty:

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 a broad and balanced curriculum. Pupils are engaged in helping to shape their learning through the creative and enquiry-based approach to the foundation subjects in each key stage. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge within lessons, of how they record their work, of

participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices on a daily basis.

Mutual Respect:

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies relating to what this means and how it is shown. Our school has a Resource Base for pupils with physical disabilities where all pupils are treated equally and with respect for each other's differences. Recently we have been involved in training as one of ten 'best practice' schools in County Durham, raising awareness of LGBT issues (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender). We aim to encourage understanding, respect and awareness of differences in others. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom rules, as well as our behaviour policy.

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. Regular visits from two local vicars to our assemblies in KS1 and KS2 help pupils to learn about Christian values while other faiths are explored through RE lessons, global awareness days, assemblies and educational visits to places of worship. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Festivals such as Diwali and Chinese New Year are explored and celebrated within the curriculum and throughout the whole school.