

Vallis First School

British Values Policy

The Department for Education has 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'.

At Vallis First School we explain and reinforce these values regularly in the following ways:

Democracy is promoted through class votes, pupil questionnaires and opportunities for debate. Parliamentary and local elections are explained and demonstrated in an age-appropriate fashion.

The Principle of Law is explained clearly in a way that is appropriate to each age group. All children are taught the class and school rules of behaviour and learning on arrival and abiding by these rules is reinforced regularly. Children will have the opportunity to vote for things such as the focus for a class treat etc. Through these activities they learn about the responsibility of the democratic process. They will, when appropriate, be involved in formulating policies that govern the way the school operates. When appropriate, discussion will take place about the manner in which our local district or county is administered, or how the country as a whole is governed. At all times, the principle of democracy and the common good is reinforced. 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, Road Safety etc. are a part of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

Personal Rights of Freedom and Liberty are taught through e-safety and Personal, Social, Health Education focused lessons when pupils are advised how to exercise their rights and personal freedoms safely and with consideration for others. Vallis First School encourages pupils to make choices, safe in the knowledge that the school provides a safe and supportive environment.

Mutual Respect is a core value and an important part of our school ethos and Behaviour policy. Discussions and assemblies focus on what respect means and how it is shown.

Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Our curriculum includes opportunities to understand something about major world religions including core beliefs and practices.

We are fortunate at Vallis First School to enjoy a community of children who have links around Great Britain and the world through their families and this enables us to learn about different cultures, languages and lifestyles often in a first hand way.

