

Teaching 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.”

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and the Prime Minister has reiterated these values this year. At Greenbank Primary, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Being part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Greenbank Primary. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions, such as customs in the course of the year; for example, a pantomime in school around Christmas time and a visit from Father Christmas! We also value and celebrate national events, a good example being the Royal Wedding.

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

Geographically: Through our themed topics pupils have a better understanding of what Britain is, learning more about:

- its capital cities and counties, its rivers and mountains
- how ‘Great Britain’ differs from ‘England’ and ‘the United Kingdom’
- where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world

Historically: Through our themed topics, pupils learn about an aspect of life and how this has developed and changed over time including inventions and discoveries, or houses, or medicine.

Democracy - We all have the chance to help make decisions

Each year the pupils decide upon and contribute to their class rules and the rights associated with these. We have a whole school approach to a calm class code. Pupils have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a school council. Council members are elected by their class peers and are involved in making the school a better place to learn. Additionally, we take part in School Parliament which is run by the local council.

Pupil questionnaires and interviews are also conducted throughout the year. We know that the formation of the school council and the active participation of our pupils will contribute to the pupils understanding of democracy in the future.

Pupils in our school also have the opportunity to effect change in their school by contributing to policy and practices within the school.

The Rule of Law - We all follow the rules

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the community or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to. The involvement of our pupils in the creation of the school rules, that are fair and reasonable, helps them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken. Pupils are taught from Nursery the rules of the school i.e. School Rules, Playground Rules, Dinner Hall Rules, Calm Class Code Rules, and they are also encouraged to be role models throughout the school.

In individual classes, pupils discuss various rules and the importance of following them.

The understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum. Throughout the year we also welcome visits from members of the wider community including for example, the fire brigade, Crossing Patrol and many more, this helps reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty - We all have the opportunity to make our own choices

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 empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Pupils are given important roles in school, such as buddies at lunch times. Pupils are also encouraged to understand responsibility in school in terms of behaviour and attitude to learning.

Lessons often give pupils opportunities to choose different approaches to their learning, for example choosing different methods or resources to solve calculation in maths. In our Literacy, Topic and Science lessons our pupils have the opportunity to choose how to present their learning through role play, poetry, leaflets, diary entries, letters etc. In EYFS, continuous provision allows pupils to choose which tasks they would like to complete and when. Pupils are given the opportunity to learn at their own pace and partake in activities that interest and engage them.

We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests.

Mutual Respect - We all respect one another

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. Pupils learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the school and in the classrooms. Our school's motto is "If you believe it, you can achieve it" and this is central to our teaching

at Greenbank . During our weekly rewards assemblies, pupils show respect for the efforts of others.

Pupils work together in class with a wide range of abilities, supporting each other. Some pupils take part in Lego therapy, where the pupils learn how to take turns and work together. There is also massage therapy where pupils massage one another, showing mutual respect towards one another.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs - We all accept each other's differences

Greenbank Primary is a diverse school and we actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Our multicultural activities illustrate our commitment to exploring our diverse school community. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.