



Friday 30th June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have been celebrating British Values week. I am writing to you to provide you with a greater understanding of these values and the work that we do in school every day to promote these.

Schools are required to provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. Part of this requirement means that they actively promote the fundamental British Values. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and the Prime Minister reiterated these in 2014.

The DFE states that there is a 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 these with different faiths and beliefs".

At Boughton-under-Blean and Dunkirk Methodist Primary School, these link very closely to the culture and ethos of our school and to the Methodist values we promote through the wider curriculum.

Democracy

Our school aims to promote this British Value by demonstrating how democracy works by discussion, decision-making and voting. We aim for our pupils to know that their views count and that their opinions are important. We encourage pupils to make decisions together and to see their role in the school and wider community. We provide opportunities for the children to vote for members of the school council and for choices that affect the whole school community.

The Rule of Law

We aim to promote this British Value by demonstrating a need for rules and laws to help keep us safe. We encourage staff and pupils to work together to create rules for the classroom and playground. We teach the children about the need for rules and how to administer these fairly. We teach the children to understand their own and others' behaviour and feelings and the consequences. We support our pupils to learn how to distinguish right from wrong.

Individual Liberty

We aim to promote this British Value by individual freedoms to choose faiths, beliefs and likes/dislikes. We provide opportunities for pupils to develop their self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities. We share achievements and successes and promote independence. We encourage children to try a range of different activities and opportunities and to discuss preferences. We attempt to challenge stereotyping and for the children to develop a positive sense of themselves.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

We aim to work as a group to create an environment that includes, values and promotes different faiths, cultures, views and races. We provide opportunities for the children to make links with the wider community including working with charities. We encourage children to learn about other faiths, cultures, traditions, families, communities and ways of life. We encourage the pupils to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others. We encourage pupils to learn about the world around them- both locally and further afield

We already do a great deal to promote these British Values in school but this week was designed to highlight the importance of being good British citizens and to raise the profile of this area of our work with the children.

Highlights of the week have included:

YR- The children held an election to choose activities throughout the week and shared how they would make the world a better place.

Y1- The class learned about the Royal family and about the diversity that exists in British society.

Y2- The class have enjoyed learning about democracy and having a fair choice. They wrote their own manifestos for a perfect country.

Y3- The children debated about deforestation of the rainforests, taking on different roles and considering different perspectives.

Y4- The class have carefully considered what it means to be 'British' and that living in Britain doesn't mean that you feel British.

Y5O- The children have enjoyed some fantastic in depth discussions about voting ages and what makes someone British and enjoyed a visit from Helen Whately (MP).

Y5H- The children have learned a great deal about the democratic process in this country and visited Swale House to meet with the mayor, council representatives and see the council chambers.

Y6- The class participated in a debate about lowering the voting age and some Y6 pupils shared their recent visit to the Gurdwara in collective worship.

We have also begun to learn the national anthem and completed works of art based upon the theme of 'Our Country'. Our seven Y5 Digital Champions taught lessons to pupils in Y1 and Y2 about how to stay safe online. We have also had a visit from the charity, Porchlight, to talk to the children about homelessness.

I hope that the children have enjoyed their learning this week about British Values.

Kind regards

Ms Godfrey