



Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we were 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, others' behaviour, 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 a week dedicated to teaching about these 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 class learned about parliament and voting. In class, they held their own secret vote to choose a special treat for Friday afternoon. Children had time to listen to reasons why they may want to vote for each option and then made their vote by putting a cross in the box of their choice.

Y1- The children celebrated diversity and the differences between each and every member of British society.

Y2- The class have enjoyed learning about diversity and the impact stereotyping has on individuals. They considered the importance of accepting the culture, beliefs and opinions of everybody in Britain.

Y3- The children discussed about what it means to live in a democratic society (equal rights, freedom of speech and a fair trial and tolerating the views of minorities). They planned arguments for and against deforestation of the rainforest and then held our own debate whilst remembering the parts above.

Y4- The class enjoyed learning about the different aspects of British values and the positive impact these have on our lives.

Y5- The children have learned a great deal about the democratic process in this country and have held a hustings in preparation for electing new House Captains and Sports Captains for next year. They participated in a discussion about lowering the voting age.

Y6- The classes visited the Gurdwara to learn more about the Sikh faith. They also attended workshops run by The Samphire Project about refugees and asylum seekers.

We have also learned the national anthem and completed works of art based upon the theme of 'Holidays'. Our Anti-bullying Ambassadors have written their own child-speak version of the school's antibullying policy. We have also had a visit from the charity, The Samphire Project, to talk to the children about refugees.

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

Kind regards

Mrs Cottenden