

## Promoting British Values at Coteford Junior School

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 in the DfE departmental advice document, ‘Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools’ (Nov 2014). At Coteford Junior School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

### Democracy:

Democracy is central to how we work together here at Coteford. An example of this is during each year the children decide upon their own class rules and regularly discuss these throughout the year. All children contribute to drawing up these rules. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Pupil Council and Pupil questionnaires. The elections of House captains are based solely on pupil votes. The school council works along with their classes to decide on priorities for their work over the year. Democracy is also covered in assemblies.

### 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 regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. All members of the school community follow the school values and the school behaviour for learning system. 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 Junior Citizen: Road Safety Team etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

### Individual Liberty:

### Mutual Respect:

Part of our school values and behaviour policy has revolved around the importance of respect. Pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Assemblies promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Our pupils know and understand that respect is expected and that we must respect our school, our learning, each other and yourself. Children learn that our behaviour choices have an effect, not only on themselves, but on others.

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 the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. 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, of how they record their work, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

### 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. Assemblies on different festivals and celebrations and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.