



Sitwell Infant School

British Values Policy

In 2011, the government defined British Values as democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

At Sitwell Infants School we aim for our children to become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. We promote the basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

Democracy

We have a School Council which consists of two members from each KS1 class who are nominated and voted for by their classmates in the autumn term. They meet every few weeks to discuss a range of issues. These issues include social and moral elements of school life, such as creating codes of conduct for playtimes and modeling positive behaviors' for their peers. The areas for discussion are then fed back to the rest of the class where they can all share their views and thoughts. Where decisions need to be made, each class member has a vote to ensure their opinion is heard and pupil questionnaires are completed.

Individual Liberty

Our children are encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment to enable them to do this. Through our PSHE lessons we discuss different choices they may make and the consequences of those choices. Children are continually encouraged to make the right choices by all adults working in school and this theme is revisited through class assemblies and circle times. We encourage independent thinking and encourage the children to reflect on their learning and the choices they have made. The importance of making safe choices when using the Internet is explored regularly through the Computing curriculum and shared with the whole school as part of our annual E-Safety day.

The Rule of Law

Our School Rules are clearly outlined in our Behaviour Policy, which is also shared with parents and carers. At the beginning of the year class teachers discuss these rules with their pupils and personalize them according to the age and needs of the class. All the adults and children belonging to that class then sign the rules, which are clearly displayed in the classroom. These rules are revisited regularly through PSHE lessons, assemblies and class circle times and there are clear sanctions for broken rules, visible to all through our school positive behavior system, which every class uses. We ensure that children understand that school and class rules are there to protect us and are essential for our wellbeing and safety.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibility that this involves and the consequences when laws are

broken. Regular visits from the authorities such as the Police and Fire Service reinforce this message. Elements of the history curriculum also enable children to explore the roles of law and authority in the past, for example through studying the Gunpowder Plot.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

All different faiths and beliefs are explored and celebrated through assemblies, RE sessions and a variety of visitors into school. The children are taught that people have different faiths and beliefs and that these should be accepted. Children within our school with different faiths are encouraged to share their practices and special celebrations. Parents are invited to share celebrations from a range of faiths with us, including attending Harvest assemblies, Eid celebrations and Christmas performances. Visits are made by the leader from the local church each half term. During the year the school takes part in charity events to raise awareness of others less fortunate. Our topic based curriculum includes texts from a range of cultures to further raise children's awareness of different cultures, faiths and beliefs.

Mutual Respect

Our whole school ethos is built around mutual respect. We are an inclusive school where everyone is valued and has a contribution to make to the school. As a school we have agreed a set of core values that are introduced and shared in assemblies each month, these include respect, co operation and honesty. The importance of working together is explored through the "Relationships" and "Getting on and Falling out" SEAL programme. Examples of children demonstrating these values are celebrated and children's photos are displayed on the 'Always' celebration board in the hall. Each week in celebration assembly their achievement is shared with the whole school and parents. Children are encouraged to respect each other throughout the day, including lunchtimes; lunchtime leaders give out golden tickets to children exhibiting these values.