

## ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Promoting British Values



There is now an explicit expectation from the government and Ofsted that schools; *'actively 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.'* (School Inspection Handbook September 2014).

At St Bartholomew's, these elements form an integral part of our aims, ethos and values and are systematically developed in many ways through our school's curriculum, organisation and routines.

#### **Democracy**

- St Bartholomew's pupils develop a first-hand understanding of British democratic processes when choosing School Council Representatives and in Year 6 House Captains and Vice-captains. Candidates write manifestos which they present to peers, this is followed by an official vote. Successful candidates are announced in a whole school assembly and make an acceptance speech.
- Pupils at St Bartholomew's develop an early concept of democracy through the School Council Representatives, at which elected class members represent their peers. Pupil Voice has impacted visibly on recent school improvements, such as lunchtime routines and the development of playground facilities. Pupils can see the influence of their views on the school decision making process.
- Our local MP Rachel Reaves visits school and gives direct insight into how change may be effected through campaigning at local level, as well as discussing local issues with pupils. We are currently arranging a Houses of Parliament tour (Y5 & 6) in cooperation with our local MP, this will further develop pupils understanding of the democratic system.
- Our Thematic Study Units give repeated opportunities for pupils to explore the concept of democracy, from its roots in Ancient Greece (Y5), to the comparison and evaluation of different forms of government in Past, Present and Future (Y5). The study of Nazi rule in war time Germany (Y6) and Florence Nightingale- women's roles and rights past and present (Y2) raises awareness of periods in recent world history where democratic rights have been compromised and the impact this has had on the lives of individuals and groups in society.

#### **Rule of Law**

- School rules are clearly understood by pupils and are reinforced by a consistently applied whole school behaviour policy.
- All pupils are involved in the negotiation of individual classroom rules at the start of each year, when the rationale behind rules is explored, along with a discussion of consequences in the event of rules not being observed. Positive behaviour is rewarded by the use of a house point system. Our school house point system is reviewed weekly in assembly for both good behaviour and attendance.
- An appreciation of the rule of law in society is cultivated through: visitors throughout school, e.g. community police workers; themed assemblies and the curriculum.
- The curriculum embeds the rule of law past and present throughout school during specifically planned theme units: People who help us (Rec), Friendships (Y1), Medicines (Y2), Invaders & Settlers,

The legal legacy of Ancient Rome, Smoking (Y3), Crime & Punishment, Alcohol, Tutankhamun-Egyptian Law (Y4), Ancient Greece, (Y5) WWII, substance misuse, personal safety (Y6).

- During Safety Week each year, the importance of online and road safety is reinforced throughout school. Road safety discusses the laws on the roads and the rules children can use in order to keep themselves and others safe. Online safety teaches children how to be safe online and what personal information should not be shared publicly. In Upper Key Stage 2, the laws surrounding online safety are discussed at age appropriate levels, alongside the consequences of cyber bullying. Parents are encouraged to attend an online safety meeting, where they are informed how they can help keep their children safe online e.g. parental controls. Laws such as the Communications Act and reporting illegal material are also discussed.

### **Individual Liberty**

- The school ethos reinforces the rights of all pupils to exist in a safe environment where they are free to learn.
- Within everyday routines children are given the freedom to choose: own reading books from a wide range for their ability; own dinner; which clubs they wish to attend and their own personal target, specific to their individual progression.
- Our curriculum planning is explicitly designed to give pupils the freedom to influence the direction of their own learning through the systematic incorporation of child-initiated ideas. Thematic units (WWII Y6, Inspirational people Y3 and Crimean War Y2) also enrich understanding of individual liberty both in the past and now, in Britain and other countries in the world.
- PSHCE teaching develops an understanding of pupils' rights and the increasing entitlement to self-determination in their lives, linked to an awareness of the responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- The study of key historical figures and events, for example during Multicultural Week (across school) and Remembrance Day Commemorations (across school and in detail in Y2 & Y6), develops an understanding of the preciousness of individual liberty and the sacrifices that have been made in its name.

### **Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs**

- Celebration of diversity is at the forefront of our curriculum, with pupils of all ages introduced to the richness and variety of world culture through a series of Thematic Study Units which develop an increasing respect for difference. Example units: Friendships (Rec), Amazing me (Y1), Valuing others and communities (Y4) and Living in a diverse world (Y5).
- Curriculum work is enriched by Multicultural History Week and Multicultural Evening. Also at numerous times of the year the school encourages all faiths to come together and celebrate key events at Christmas, Easter and Harvest services. During these special times gifts are taken to local care homes and residents and choir sings at local care homes.

- The RE curriculum and assemblies introduce pupils to the beliefs and celebrations of different faith groups, with an approach that explores the commonality of human experience alongside a respect for difference.
- Our programme of educational visits includes London (Y5 & 6), which extends personal experience of the rich diversity of contemporary Britain, alongside repeated visits beyond the immediate vicinity of the school community to Leeds.

**We hope after reading this overview you have an insight to how we at St Bartholomew's ensure that British Values are at the heart of our school ethos.**

**January 2016**