

# Promoting British Values at Abington Vale Primary School

At Abington Vale Primary School we uphold and teach pupils about British Values which are defined as:

- democracy
- rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

These values are taught through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE), Religious Education (RE). We also teach British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum and through our trips and visitors.

Alongside this, the school also takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through assemblies, whole school ethos and structures such as electing and running a successful school.

At Abington Vale Primary School, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

## **Democracy**

**An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.**

Democracy is an important value at our school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. The election of members of the School Council are based on pupil votes and the children of the school can influence decisions through the School Council. Situations involving democratic decision making are also encouraged in day to day classroom experiences.

Children are encouraged to understand how democracy is the foundation to the running of our country and how the government and elections are vital in this.

## **The Rule of Law**

**An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.**

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days. Our system for behaviour is aligned to an agreed set of behaviours, expected for optimum learning and if children are given warnings, this is always set against the agreed school behaviour policy. Children are encouraged to understand why our 3 school rules are so important in the wellbeing of the school and wider community.

The reason for each rule in the school, be ready, be respectful and be safe, is highlighted to enable pupils to understand the connection with wellbeing. 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.

We are committed to recognising children's good choices and thoughtful behaviour around the school. We endeavour to praise the children in a variety of ways and recognise the importance of praise to guide the children into the right choices. This includes certificates, house points and values awards.

## **Individual Liberty**

**An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence.**

Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices at our school, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we provide boundaries for our children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and planned curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety teaching.

## **Mutual respect**

**An understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.**

Abington Vale Primary school is a diverse school with children coming from a number of different faiths and backgrounds. It is an integral part of our ethos to respect the choices and beliefs that we all have. Assemblies regularly reflect the expectation that as a community, we respect each other.

The freedom to choose is key to the ethos of the school with a great emphasis on thinking about the consequences of those choices. The school believes it is vital for children to learn to make the right choices and throughout the school day, right choices are encouraged and praised.

## **Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

**An acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.**

As a diverse school with children from a variety of faiths, it is a vital part of our ethos that we respect and celebrate all our faiths and encourage all the children to be proud of their faith and beliefs. Assemblies regularly center around annual celebrations from a number of faiths and the children from these faiths are given the opportunity to lead these assemblies and teach others about their beliefs. We actively encourage participation of all Faith events happening in the local area eg the town Divali walk.

The school promotes respect for all our faiths and the adaptations that might be needed within the school day eg fasting. World events are used to learn about the world we live in and the differences there may be between countries and due to many of our children having English as a second language, we can enjoy the rich experiences they bring to the school from their cultures.

Through our provision and strong school ethos we;

- Enable our children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Enable our children to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- Encourage our children to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely.
- Enable our children to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England.
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling our children to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures.

- Encourage respect for other people
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which law is made and applied in England.

Our last full Ofsted inspection, (Nov 2014) recognised the impact of our cohesive and respectful school community with British Values fully embedded within. This was also acknowledged in our 2018 inspection.

*'The behaviour of pupils is outstanding. Pupils display very positive attitudes to learning'*

*'Pupils are encouraged to reflect on a wide range of issues that raise their awareness of the need for tolerance and respect for others, so that they are well prepared for life in modern Britain'*

*'These aspects are supporting good progress and positive attitudes towards each other and reflect the school's commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity, regardless of pupils' backgrounds'*