

British Values at Hatch Warren Infant School

Since September 2014 schools have been required to actively promote fundamental British values to meet the new Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education standard.

What are British values?

The document "Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools" says "Schools should 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".

It is this list of values that are used below as a basis for this statement.

Promoting British values at Hatch Warren Infant School

At Hatch Warren Infant School, the importance of SMSC education in developing well-rounded citizens who contribute to society and improve their communities has always been recognised and promoted as integral to membership of the school. British fundamental values have always been at the heart of what we do, although in the past they may not have been explicitly labelled as such. When the term 'British' values is used it is important to underline that this embraces the fact that we are a nation with a proud history of people of many different ethnic backgrounds, religious beliefs and secular values all living together in a plural society. Our school models this wider picture of inclusivity, freedom and equality, so our underpinning values are British to the core.

Prevent Strategy

A key part of the government's counter-terrorism strategy is called 'Prevent'. The aim is to prevent radicalisation of any individual, and to positively promote what it means to be British, in order to create a cohesive society that lives out British values, whatever the origins or ethnicity of the individuals. Read more about 'Prevent' [here](#).

How do we promote these values in both preventing radicalisation, and promoting British Values?

- Most importantly, read above for how we promote British Values through our curriculum- it's simply a part of who we are and what we do at HWIS!
- We take great pride in developing our children's Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development (see below)
- We ensure that our safeguarding practices are kept up-to-date, and our policy and training covers the different aspects of the 'Prevent Strategy'.
- We are ensuring that our pupils are able to think critically using curriculum opportunities including small group work.
- We teach about multiple religions, and have visitors from various faiths and religions speak to our pupils.
- Assemblies focus on promote British Values.

- We challenge and act strongly on any form of racism or prejudice, either by adults or children.
- We provide strong emotional and pastoral support, and look out for individuals or groups of children or adults who may be isolated.

The ways in which we achieve the requirement to promote British values are many. Some of them are explored below.

Democracy

We listen to children's and parent's voice. Our school behaviour policy is clear that children are expected to contribute and co-operate, taking into account the views of others. Each class sees democracy in action as they elect members to represent them on the School Council, following hustings and a secret ballot. The School Council, which meets regularly with the Deputy Headteacher, chooses its officers through an election and will often vote on proposals within meetings. Pupil voice is also heard through Class Council which is fed back through School Council, class circle times, pupil interviews and class assemblies.

The Rule of Law

We consistently reinforce our high expectations of children. Children are taught the value and reasons behind our expectations (rules) that they are there to protect us, that everyone has a responsibility and that there are consequences when rules are broken. The understanding of right and wrong is a thread that runs through school activity. It is discussed in school and class assemblies and Collective Worships, RE and PSHCE lessons. Children are supported in making good choices between right and wrong by general school rules (some of which, in classes, are democratically selected by the children themselves) and particular rules e.g. those that govern the use of play equipment. Children are continually reminded about what is needed to make a safe and happy community and the role of boundaries (rules, laws) to achieve this. To reinforce this message, visits e.g. from our Police Liaison Officer, Police Officers, Armed Services personnel and the Fire Service are a regular feature of our calendar.

Individual liberty

Within school, children 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 children to make choices safely, through our provision of a safe environment and empowering teaching. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms. We provide a culture, environment and opportunity for children to make their own choices, recognising the need for their own and others' safety and well-being. This is supported by a programme of E-safety and PSHCE lessons and assemblies.

Mutual respect

At Hatch Warren Infant School we recognise that everyone is important and special, and needs to be treated as such. Our behaviour policy, our school rules, the modelling of adults and pupil leaders as well as the explicit teaching through PSHCE and assemblies, actively promotes this value each week.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Our school, like our country, has a richness that is due to the diversity of those who live here, and we value, embrace, and respect those from different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs. We aim to enhance children's understanding of different faiths and beliefs by participating in a range of celebrations throughout the year. Children have the opportunity to dress-up in clothes and try different foods from other cultures and we encourage parents/carers to participate and support our multi-cultural events.

Governors

Our governing body are involved in challenging and supporting our school in ensuring that we promote British Values. They are discussed in meetings, and referred to when making visits and reports. The governor body conducts itself in a manner which reflects British Values, with democracy and mutual respect at the heart of what it does.

Ongoing Actions

With the introduction of the revised National Curriculum, we are continually ensuring that there are further opportunities for embedding and learning the fundamental British values. This means that planning for each project explicitly states how British values are taught. Our Collective Worship schedule also ensures that there is an appropriate spread of themes and values throughout the year.