

Promoting British Values at Glebe Academy

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 by the Prime Minister this year.

Being Part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Glebe Academy. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions, such as customs in the course of the year; for example, Harvest festival during the Autumn term, and what could be more British than a trip to a pantomime around Christmas time! We also value and celebrate national events.

At Glebe Academy these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is rife within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Pupil Council, pupil questionnaires and through pupil interviews. The elections for Glebe Ambassadors are based on the democratic process with children giving speeches and elections then occurring. Our school behaviour policy involves rewards which the pupils vote. The majority of policies are debated widely and incorporate pupil voice as children, parents, governors and staff work together to put policy into practice. Our Imaginative Learning Project themes are also led by pupil interests and pupils are involved in the planning of these themes on a half termly basis. We have also well-developed links with local Members of Parliament who come into school.

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 PSHE and Citizenship lessons, as well as when discussing behaviour and through whole school assemblies. 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 authorities such as the Police and the Fire Service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. Pupils are involved in deciding class rules and pupil charters linked to anti-bullying and SMSC outcomes.

Individual Liberty:

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, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices and to respect the decisions and choices of others.

Mutual Respect:

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Relationships', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Pupils will challenge each other when not showing respect and encourage each other to be respectful.

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 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. Through our RE curriculum, which teaches the main faiths and focuses upon learning about religion and learning from religion, we promote tolerance of the beliefs of others. We also enjoy a depth of study during themed days, where sometimes we will celebrate and enjoy learning about the differences in countries and cultures around the world; whilst at other times we might consider groups or individuals who might be vulnerable in some way.