

British Values at St. Margarets

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, 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. At St Margaret’s these values are reinforced regularly in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy is promoted within the school and is modelled by the teachers. All pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our school council, pupil questionnaires, green rangers and recent Head Teacher interview process. Children are proactive in advising subject leaders of their own and their peer’s views. Children voices are heard in evaluations of collective worship and each class plans their own collective worships in order to promote our values. Younger pupils can reflect on the importance of fairness and older pupils can debate the strengths and weaknesses of democracy as a value and as a political system.

The elections of house captains, school council and green rangers are based on pupil votes. Each teacher has different ways in which to allow the pupils to make their voices heard in the classroom e.g. through circle time, PSHE, decisions over classroom rules and discussions. During the Parliamentary elections children ran their own campaigns based on the manifestos of the parliamentary leaders who they then voted for. Children from Year 5 and 6 take part in local democracy events at the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. We try to challenge injustice through our curriculum most notably within the RE curriculum where we study a range of topics including ‘Justice and Poverty.’ We look at people such as Martin Luther King and Rosa Parkes within our RE units. Children study the history of democracy and consider a life without democracy in their History topics such as Ancient Greece.

We believe our school value of respect encourages pupils and staff to listen to others and respect their opinions and beliefs therefore giving us a democratic 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 days and assemblies. The children are taught right from wrong; this is represented in our values of truthfulness, forgiveness and citizenship. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws; that they govern and protect us, the responsibility that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the police, fire service, road safety officers etc are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce the message. There is a clear set of ‘Golden Rules’ and our school’s values are displayed throughout the school. Each family signs the home school agreement which includes the Golden Rules as well as other linking themes. Work in RE focussing on living in different religions and cultures and the significance

of the Golden Rules for religious and non-religious people allows pupils to discuss the importance of this value. Pupils examine different example of codes of human life including commandments and rules offered by different religious communities.

Our value of citizenship encourages children to think of the consequences of their actions on others and themselves and therefore to recognise and act upon our school rules.

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 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 we advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through the choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extracurricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. All classes work towards incentives such as golden time, where their choices affect outcomes for themselves personally as well as the whole class. We also try to give ownership of learning to the children and promote a personal investigative approach. At break and lunchtime children are allowed to use the outside spaces according to their personal choices. Our shared values in the school promote both staff and children as good role models and we take opportunities to challenge stereotypes whenever the opportunity arises. Opportunities are also taken to explore that with individual liberty and freedom comes responsibilities to the local community and the wider world. Children are given opportunities to learn about inspirational people who have exercised their individual liberty such as Malala Yousafzai, Ghandi and Nelson Mandela.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

We believe our school value of respect enhances pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and gives them opportunities to experience this and celebrate diversity. At St Margaret's, everybody's right to be themselves is accepted by all.

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around our school values such as respect, forgiveness, friendship and citizenship. Pupils have been part of discussions and collective worship relating to what this means and how it is shown, older pupils monitor these values being demonstrated. These values are reiterated throughout school life. The children themselves patrol a friendship bench where they promote respect and friendship. Throughout St Margaret's, respect is at the forefront of our everyday school lives. We provide opportunities for children to learn to respect others through our curriculum enrichment days e.g. celebrating cultural diversity day, multi faith workshops, visits from children of different faiths and cultures to our own and regular visitors who promote respect when delivering collective worship. Visitors of different faiths or religions share their knowledge with pupils and staff to enhance learning and understanding. We celebrated festivals throughout the year from many World religions and think about how we can learn from them. As part of our RE curriculum we visit places of worship. RE lessons explore diverse faiths and world views and lead to positive attitudes towards diversity. Disagreement and debate allows pupils to practise listening, learning and thinking about others in a respectful environment. We are

currently working towards our International Schools Award by working with other schools around the world.

Children are encouraged to value and accept everybody for what they are, regardless of faith, gender, sexual orientation or country of origin. We support charities where they promote respect and tolerance for example regularly working with the Salvation Army. Excellent RE and SMSC promotes mutual respect and prepares children for life in modern Britain.