

British values at The Willow School

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.”

At The Willow Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. The school council, consisting of two pupils from each class (elected by the children), meet weekly with the lead learning mentor. School issues are discussed and decisions made, such as school dinners, playtime equipment etc. Our healthy school tuck shop was voted for by the school council and how to spend the money raised is decided by the children. Fun activities such as ‘I’m a Teacher, Get Me out of Here’ and the staff / pupil football match are organised and run by the school council. The council also has a notice board where decisions are displayed.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team attend school council every half term.

Debates in literacy, allow children to express their own viewpoints as well as listen and respond to other opinions.

Termly pupil interviews allow staff to get feedback from individuals and groups of children on various aspects of school life.

Children are consulted as to what the school priorities should be. This is then incorporated into the School development Plan

Children complete an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school. These questionnaires are analysed and results are acted upon.

Parent questionnaires three times a year and termly head teacher meetings (with translators), allow parents to have a voice and give feedback on different aspects of school life.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced. School rules and expectations are displayed in each classroom. These rules form the base of our behaviour policy with clear rewards and sanctions. Circle Time allows children to discuss rules and understand how rules are there for the common good and to protest them. Our restorative approach to behaviour allows children to reflect on their own behaviour and how it affects those around them.

Our Anti bullying week focuses on issues and the impact of bullying .

Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

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 provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety, SRE and PSHE (SEAL) lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Opportunities for children to take on more responsibility around the school is encouraged. The older children in the Broadwater Brigade have clear roles and responsibilities such as supporting in the library, office, PA roles etc.

Our INCREDIBLE learning powers help children develop their own sense of worth and believe themselves to be the best they can be.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Being part of an inclusive campus with an extensive integration programme, our children understand about respecting and caring for those less fortunate than themselves.

Global citizenship is celebrated through the Freedom project where six local and international schools work together to promote harmonious relationships.

Regular charity events help children care about people going through trauma and hardship.

Big community events where all cultures and faiths come together in harmony are a feature of the school.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

The Willow Primary School is a diverse school. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. RE, assemblies and PSHE reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of the community are invited to assemblies to talk about their faith. Year group visit a place of religious worship once a year.

Celebrations take place (Eid / Christmas parties) where children of all faiths participate and enjoy themselves together.

Through circle time, assemblies and general day to day teaching, we will discuss differences between people, such as differences of disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations, such as looked-after children or young carers

Through the above, our pupils gain a clear understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society.

At The Willow we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views. Any incidents of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour is acted upon and recorded.