

Values Teaching at West Hill

In September 2015 a statutory duty to teach British Values was placed on schools by the Government.

"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.

At West Hill we teach values along with the Unicef Convention on the Rights of a child. Each month the school focuses on a different value. These values are:

Hope and Aspiration, Friendship, Resilience, Co-operation, Honesty, Independence, Compassion, Self-belief, Tolerance, Humility and Making Good Choices.

For our school to be accredited as rights-respecting we demonstrated that we have reached evidence for all four of the following standards:

- **Standard A: Rights-respecting values underpin leadership and management**
The best interests of the child are a top priority in all actions. Leaders are committed to placing the values and principles of the CRC at the heart of all policies and practice.
- **Standard B: The whole school community learns about the CRC**
The Convention is made known to children and adults. Young people and adults use this shared understanding to work for global justice and sustainable living.
- **Standard C: The school has a rights-respecting ethos**
Young people and adults collaborate to develop and maintain a rights-respecting school community, based on the CRC, in all areas and in all aspects of school life.
- **Standard D: Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners**
Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously. Young people develop the confidence, through their experience of an inclusive rights-respecting

school community, to play an active role in their own learning and to speak and act for the rights of all to be respected locally and globally.

The standards underpinning CRC link closely with values teaching.

British values are included in the whole school values. The children learn about them in a variety of ways included:

Democracy:

Enabling Enterprise 'A Day in Politics'

School Council - pupils democratically elect the representatives for each class

Trips to Parliament

Visits from local magistrates talking to young people about the Magistrates' Courts and the Criminal Justice System

Developing a 'Class and School Charter'

Pupil's questionnaires

Children are consulted about the anti-bullying and behaviour policies

• **The Rule of Law:**

Each class has a class charter which states the Rights and Responsibilities of all children in the class - related to behaviour and learning. Children gain an understanding of the importance of Laws through everyday discussions in the classroom and assemblies. They are taught about the notion of 'fair play' in PE, playtimes and in their lessons. Topics on 'People who help us' ensure the children are aware of the role of the police in society. Year 5 have a day learning about 'citizenship' with other schools in the locality. Children learn about The Importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, that they are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour. 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.

This is reinforced by visits from local magistrates talking to young people about the Magistrates' Courts and the Criminal Justice System

• **Individual Liberty:**

Children are made aware of their rights and the rights of all children through the CRC. This is taught through assemblies and underpins all that we do. In order to have individual liberty you need to have equal opportunity. This is provided through

curriculum activities and Enabling Enterprise. They have the opportunity to take part in all activities regardless of e.g. medical needs, disabilities, cultural or religious beliefs. 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 learn 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, or participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

- **Mutual Respect:**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', 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 class charters, as well as our behaviour policy.

Our playground buddies scheme promotes care and respect between children of different ages.

- **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

This is achieved through the teaching of RE, through PSHE - where the children learn about others' beliefs. This is reinforced through visits to places of worship. Our Rights Respecting teaching promotes an understanding of others' lives and different experiences. Our Anti-bullying policy (drawn up in partnership with the pupils) supports a culture of mutual respect and tolerance of difference.