

PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES AT ROSSENDALE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

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. The DfE have recently reinforced the need for schools to ensure that the curriculum...

“Actively promotes 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 Rossendale School and Sixth Form we are committed to upholding these values. We ensure that they are reinforced regularly through teaching and learning which has a clear focus on enabling pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Democracy:

Respect for democracy, democratic participation and active involvement of all pupils is evident across the school. We aim to provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services. Our aim is to teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process. For example: Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard and are able to express their views freely through our Pupil questionnaires, pupil teacher conferencing and Pupil Council. The elections of Pupil Council representatives each year are based solely on pupil votes (which helps to highlight some of the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain). This effective involvement of pupils in democratic procedures enables them to influence and make decisions in matters which affect their lives within school.

Our school behaviour policy involves rewards and sanctions which the pupils vote on and so can facilitate understanding of wider issues within the context of learning about the values on which our society is founded and our system of democratic government. Within our school community we have a pupil parliament whereby pupils express their views about matters of importance within the wider community. Consequently, our pupils have opportunities to influence decision making through a democratic process both in school and in the Pupil Parliament's decision making process. Visits to the pupil parliament allow children to go to see the local council offices and chambers on a regular basis.

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, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught to have respect for the basis on which the law is made and how the law is applied in England. We aim to teach children the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect all of us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community and from public

institutions such as the Police, the Fire Service and the Mayor's office to help reinforce the importance of the Rule of Law for our pupils. We ensure that school rules and expectations are clear and fair and our pupils understand that rules are there to protect us just as living under the rule of law protects all individuals.

Individual Liberty:

We support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety, Life Education lessons and menu choices. Pupils are taught to respect the rights of others and to consider their responsibility for their behaviour. Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices safely through provision of a safe and secure environment and empowering education. Whether it is through choice of challenge, or of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely through provision of a safe and secure environment and empowering education. Whether it is through choice of challenge, or of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. We welcome freedom of speech through pupil participation, while ensuring protection of vulnerable pupils and challenging stereotyping others. We implement and actively promote a strong anti-bullying culture and invite visitors into school to support our anti-bullying policy.

Mutual Respect:

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around Core Values such as Love, Respect, Tolerance and Forgiveness. Pupils are expected to show mutual respect towards everything and everyone, regardless of individual differences, at all times. Indeed our school rule is "*...to respect and show courtesy and kindness to all people, at all times*". All children, adults and visitors are expected to behave respectfully and we will challenge anybody who displays prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. Pupils take part in assemblies and class discussions related to what this means and how it is shown.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

We help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life. This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding through the curriculum, of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving pupils opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving identifying and combating discrimination, prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Our school is part of a local network of small schools which enables children of different faiths, cultures and backgrounds to meet and socialise through a range of different learning opportunities. We encourage children to participate in a wide

range of events and provide opportunities for pupils to serve the wider community in order to nurture tolerance and harmony, understanding and respect between all members of our society.

References

DfE, September 2014 School Inspection Handbook: *Handbook for inspecting schools in England under section 5 of the Education Act 2005* (as amended by the Education Act 2011, No. 120101 Crown Copyright 2014

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