



# **Henham and Ugley Primary and Nursery School**

## **British Values**

## **British Values at Henham and Ugley Primary and Nursery 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.”

The government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values have been further reiterated by government more recently. At Henham and Ugley Primary and Nursery, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

- School collective assemblies
- Through targeted and age appropriate curriculum topics
- Religious Education
- PSHCE
- Our clubs and extra-curricular activities
- The work of school council and other pupil led activities
- Our general positive and inclusive ethos

As well as actively promoting British values, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including ‘extremist’ views.

The term ‘British values’ might be slightly misleading in that these values are integral to so many countries throughout the world – they differ in no way from the values of most western European countries. Below are just a few examples of how we promote British values.

### **Being part of Henham and Ugley villages, Uttlesford, Essex and Britain and playing our part the Global Community**

As a school, we value and celebrate the heritages of everybody at Henham and Ugley Primary School. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of our local community and 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, our multi-cultural weeks where we found out about the traditions of different cultures in our community. We also value and celebrate national events: Armistice Day, World Cup, Commonwealth Games; Wimbledon Fortnight.

Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different specific perspectives in curriculum topics for example:

- Geography: where we ensure that children have a better understanding of what Britain is, learning more about its capital cities and counties, its rivers and mountains, where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world.

- Science: working with external support to explore issues around fitness and nutrition
- History: Britain and its influence in modern times are aspects woven into our thematic topics. Florence Nightingale and her influence on hospitals, Victorian Britain including where the Empire covered and the links with the Great Exhibition
- English: Biographies of British historical figures including linking with History with research about local soldiers on the village memorial.
- Art: including studies of how British artists have influenced others; sketching and painting local trees and plants

## **Democracy**

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Henham and Ugley Primary School. Democracy is central to how we operate.

An obvious example is our School Council. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates create 'manifestos', pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret etc.

The council is made up of two representatives from each class, with two executive councillors retained from Year Five to support the roles of school council chair and vice chairperson. Class Council meets weekly to help resolve class concerns. The School Council meets fortnightly to discuss cross school issues raised by the different classes or staff. The School Council takes responsibility for agreeing to support different charities each term and the events to raise money for these charities. They have also chosen PE equipment and considered other resources across the school.

Other examples of 'pupil voice' are:

- Children agree their Class Rules at the start of the year and sign to show they agree
- Pupils monitor and evaluate behaviour in school and feedback to classes
- Playtime Buddies are trained to support pupils to unpick minor disagreements and play together. These pupils develop skills of mediation, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. They apply for this position and are interviewed.

## **Rules and Laws**

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses and sets its own class rules, a set of principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.

Our whole school Behaviour Policy is embedded throughout the school, and our pupils can demonstrate what this looks like in their daily actions,

These values are reinforced in other ways:

- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- During Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are discussed/explored
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in a sports lesson, for example

## **Individual Liberty**

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- Choices about what learning challenge or activity to do
- Choices about how they record their learning in their reading logs
- Choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities
- Choices about lunchtime options

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely and responsibly, such as in our e-safety, drug, relationship and PSHCE lessons.

## **Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

Henham is in an area which serves a mainly white British population however this does not reflect the cultural mix in the wider community and we recognise our role in making pupils aware of the rich diversity of life in modern Britain.

We are proud to promote and celebrate the different backgrounds and beliefs that our pupils will encounter as they grow up and gain experience. Mutual respect is implicit in our aims and ethos.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have, and to everything, whether it is a school resource or a religious belief.

Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and that with rights come responsibility for ensuring others rights are recognised. All members of the school and wider community should treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we enhance pupils understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are: In assemblies where we learn about different religions and recognise celebrations from different faiths as well as meeting visitors to talk about their beliefs and the impact on their own lives. Through Religious Education and other lessons where we might develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures – in English through fiction and in Art by considering culture from other parts of the world. In addition, pupils enjoy an in depth of study during Themed Weeks, where sometimes we will celebrate and enjoy learning about the differences in countries and cultures around the world. All About Me topics at EYFS and KS1 explores and celebrates similarities and differences between children.

Through the curriculum, Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE), this is a constant thread.

Sadly, no school can guarantee that there will never be instances which are contrary to this value. At Henham and Ugley Primary and Nursery, such instances are rare, and they are treated seriously.