BRITISH VALUES AT ST PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Department for Education has 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."

As a C of E School, we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils' character and moral perspective, through the teachings of the Church. We are confident that our continued focus on the Gospel Values will give our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today, and embed in them the building blocks of a future successful and productive life. We are also firm in the belief that our children learn these as not just British values, but those that humanity as a whole holds dear.

The government has set out its definition of British Values as:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At St Peter's these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways :-

Democracy:
Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Pupil Council (pictured), Young Leaders and pupil questionnaires, together with a range of anonymous reflection-, thought- and worry-boxes around school. In this way they learn about decision making and the input they can have. The children have the chance to elect a representative from each class that they feel will represent their class' views. We also have buddies and play leaders. Every week children in each class are certificates in assembly for displaying a range of skills based around understanding others; they are chosen because they have been seen to try to live out the mission statement of St Peter's 'Together We Believe, Aspire And Achieve.'

The Rule of Law:
The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies (collective worship). 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police, Police Community Officers, Fire Service, etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help to reinforce this message. Our school behaviour policy is based on mutual respect for all.

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 learn how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety teaching and PHSE&C programme. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of activities in the classroom, of participation in extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. Our culture of anti- bullying is strong and children are constantly encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour.

Mutual Respect:
Our school ethos is based on the teachings of Christianity, summed up in the command 'to love one another as I have loved you.'

This is at the core of our school and we expect all to adhere to this teaching regardless of their background, faith, or race. Everyone is treated with respect in our school and pupils are frequently part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Children are positively praised and rewarded for expressing this value in their words and behaviour. They welcome opportunities to show this e.g. fundraising for charities both close to home and around the world; singing carols at local residential care homes; bringing in toys to donate to the Salvation Army for local homeless children at Christmas; sponsoring a child to attend school in India and regularly writing to her and her classmates. Children's successes and achievements are always celebrated, none more highly than their demonstration of their respect for all.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:
This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and respect for individual differences e.g. through worship, assemblies, RE curriculum, Geography Curriculum, multi-faith study, through our Christian ethos. Children discuss and celebrate the differences between people such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender and different family situations including looked- after children or young carers. Our Christian teachings, which are the basis of all we do, guide us to try to act as Jesus taught.

If you would like to discuss the school's approach to the teaching and living of British Values, please contact us to arrange a visit; we are sure that a walk around the school will leave you with a very strong impression of our ethos.

Miss E Richardson