

Simonside Primary School

Promoting Fundamental British Values

The DfE 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" Throughout our ethos and curriculum we promote, teach and reinforce these fundamental British values, appropriate to the stages of development of the children, in the following ways:-

Democracy

Democracy underpins the values of the school. All children are treated fairly and have an equal right to express their views and be listened to. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through the School Council, members of which are elected democratically by their classmates in ballots which introduce the pupils to the principal of democratic elections. Many of our themes and projects involve pupils working in groups or teams to achieve something together. In these projects pupils have the opportunity to voice their ideas but must compromise and accept the majority decision if they are to move forward successfully.

Rule of Law

The importance of laws are consistently reinforced during lessons, break-times, lunch-times and assemblies including class rules, school rules and rules that govern the country. Pupils are taught the reasons behind rules, the importance of observing rules and the consequences when rules are not adhered to. The school's clear Behaviour Policy is understood by all stakeholders and is regularly reviewed.

Individual Liberty

Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices within our safe and supportive environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their

rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, eg. through our PSHE sessions, circle times and e-safety lessons.

Children are encouraged and given the freedom to make choices, eg. to take on leadership responsibilities such as school councillors or playground buddies and at special events such as assemblies, family open days or Christmas productions. Within some lessons, children choose how they wish to record their findings or their work, and they choose how to work co-operatively to solve tasks. Children are given some choices over which roles they would like to assume in class assemblies and performances and also over the context of role play areas in classrooms. Following whole school fund raising events children suggest how to spend the income they have generated from these events.

Mutual Respect

At all times the school promotes the right of all children to learn and thrive in an atmosphere of mutual respect. The school promotes respect for others and this is reinforced through class rules, school rules and our Behaviour Policy. Children take part in discussions when they are expected to treat the opinions and views of others with respect. Sports days, games lessons and lunchtime provision with specialist sports coaches also reinforce the importance of mutual respect, equality and fairness. Participation in charity work encourages pupils to think sensitively about others in challenging situations.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

All staff are committed to developing with the children the language needed to express their views, emotions and feelings so that children are able to negotiate with their peers and resolve any disagreements in a peaceful manner. Our RE curriculum adheres to the South Tyneside Agreed Syllabus for RE and provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths religions and cultures. Whole school assemblies and class assemblies celebrate cultural diversity. Festivals are celebrated as part of the curriculum and are also explored through stories, role play and using resources within school, including IT. Strong links are in place with the local community including the local church, nursing homes and other schools. At Simonside Primary School we actively challenge pupils, staff, parents or governors who express opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views.