

Promoting British Values

The Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent strategy and these strategies have been reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. These values are reinforced regularly at Howbridge Infant School in the following ways:

Democracy

Pupil voice is extremely important to us at Howbridge Infant School. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, our Health and Sports Council, our Eco Council and our E-Safety Council. Children are voted onto these councils by their class mates. They have the duty of attending meetings and then feeding back this information to their class, collecting their thoughts and ideas on this and then relaying this information back at the next council meeting. This ensures all pupils voices are heard in decision making around the school. All pupils take part in P4C (Philosophy for Children) lessons where philosophical issues are discussed and debated. All year groups also take part in Picture News sessions. In both of these activities, all children have the right to say what they think and respect the thoughts and views of others, debating these issues fairly. Each year, children from all year groups are invited to fill in an Annual Pupil Questionnaire which is then read by staff at the school and changes made to meet the needs of the results so that the views of all children are heard and taken account of. Previous visits by the school council include those to the Witham Town Hall where they met the Mayor and found out how decisions are made by the Council in the local area. As well as this, the local MP Pretti Patel visited school and met with the school council to answer questions they had about the Government.

The rule of law

The importance of laws and rules are comprehensive throughout the curriculum. All classes have their own classroom rules which are decided and agreed on at the beginning of each academic year. We have a set of core values and the children are rewarded for their decisions and choices. These laws and rules are reinforced through learning in PSHE, whole school and class assemblies and are also a continual thread through everything we do. Our children are aware that their actions have consequences and it is their responsibility to behave in the right way and to make the right choices. Positive choices are rewarded across the school in many different ways, including certificates, class points and awards. Each year group follows the same positive behaviour management strategies to develop understanding of following rules and consequences to create a cohesive learning environment. This is also reflected through Core Value and Star of the Week certificates to reinforce and reward rule following.

Individual Liberty:

Pupils at Howbridge Infant School learn in a safe, secure and nurturing environment. They know their boundaries and are encouraged to make choices safely. They are not afraid to ask or answer questions and will happily stand up for what they believe in. Lessons encourage children to work in a group and have their say. They are happy to agree and disagree with their peers and give reasons to support their thoughts.

We have a number of extra-curricular activities that children are encouraged to be part of including Before and After School Club and lunchtime clubs. During all lessons, in particular P4C, Picture News and PSHE lessons, children are actively encouraged to freely share their own opinions and accept the opinions of others to ensure children stand up for what they believe. This is supported through the use of Blooms Taxonomy questioning by both adults and children to ensure children question the world around them. During RE lessons children learn about our diverse culture and how to accept and live with these differences in and out of school. Children at our school have the right to earn many responsibilities including being members of various school councils, being play leaders and learning leaders. This helps them learn how to work positively with others and have their voice heard. Learning topics are created alongside all adults and children in the year group to ensure that children's ideas and interests are incorporated into their daily lessons.

Mutual respect:

Our behaviour policy encourages children to respect themselves and each other and to work as a team. We have a set core values, with each value focussed on a fortnightly rotation. Children are rewarded for demonstrating these core values during lessons and playtimes. Year 2 children are trained as play leaders to help support positive behaviour and respect for all around the school by ensuring all children are following the school and playground rules created by the children. Respect for everyone despite their differences is taught through PSHE and RE lessons and reflected in the children's behaviour around our school. We have a variety of visitors in assembly including those from different faiths to develop children's understanding and acceptance of others. Each month children focus on two different male and female British Role Models and the contributions they made to British society to learn about good role models to aspire to and to respect the work of others. We complete lots of fundraising activities for various charities across the year to help others with different needs to our own. Children take part in lots of Outdoor Learning Problem Solving activities where they have to work together to solve a problem by listening to others, respecting each other's ideas and making mutual decisions which may not be their own ideas.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

This is promoted through every aspect of school life. PSHE and RE lessons equip children with an understanding of different faiths and beliefs and the values which different religions hold. Children are taught to respect each other and welcome differences and learn from them. These lessons are supported by regular assemblies to learn about different faiths. Our anti-bullying policy supports children learning to celebrate differences and work together. Every fortnight children learn about a different country from around the World. This country is found on a map and we find out about the flags, currency, capital cities and traditions. This opens the children's eyes to the wider world and helps them to understand different cultures. In October every year we celebrate Black History Month and find out about the lives of famous Black people and celebrate differences. We celebrate lots of different religious and cultural festivals from around the world across different subjects and lesson/lunchtimes, including those which are British festivals.