



Promoting British Values

The Department for Education states that there is a 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 Department for Education defines British Values as follows:

- Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
- Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Support for equality of opportunity for all
- Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

Our school reflects British values in all that we do. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. Wherever possible, we take a global approach to learning by introducing themes from the perspective of other people in other countries.

At Dorridge Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

DEMOCRACY - *I have a say in what happens in our school community*

Democracy is embedded in so many things we do in school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and Eco Council.

To understand how they can influence decision making through a democratic process:

- We empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each ‘voice’ and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty

- Pupils also have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, ECO Council and pupil questionnaires. The elections of School Council Members are based solely on pupil votes.
- The School Council itself is led by two members of staff and adheres to democratic processes.
- The principle of democracy is also explored in the History and RE curriculum as well as in assemblies.

THE RULE OF LAW - *I know what is right and wrong and that there are consequences if I make a poor choice.*

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. School Council helped to devise an Anti-Bullying Charter which everyone has agreed and signed up to. Our 'Dorridge Decorum' is also a good example, with children devising a set of expectations about good manners. At the start of each year each class discusses and sets its own Class Code of Conduct, rules 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 happy environment. Our pupils are taught the value of and the reasons behind laws and that that they govern and protect us. They learn about the responsibilities involved and the consequences when laws are broken.

To appreciate that living under the rule of law protects us and is essential for our well-being and safety:

- The importance of laws/rules, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout and especially when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies.
- Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws; that they govern and protect us; the responsibilities that they hold and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police; help to reinforce this message.
- We have a clearly structured behaviour policy which all stakeholders understand and follow.
- The concept of the Rule of Law is also reinforced through teaching activities in our PSHE curriculum.

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY - *I have the right to say, do and think what I want and the responsibility to accept the consequences of my actions.*

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 our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education.

To understand that the freedom to choose is protected in law:

- Pupils have key roles and responsibilities in school e.g. House Captains, School Council and ECO Reps and Play Leaders etc.
- We educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering education.
- Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.
- Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how they record, choose their lunch options, of participation in extra-curricular clubs and opportunities etc., pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

MUTUAL RESPECT - *I know everyone is unique and I respect everyone.*

Respect is seen as an important value in our school. Pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. The value of respect at Dorridge Primary School underpins much of our work every day both in and out of the classroom.

To understand that while people may hold different views, we may show respect towards them:

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around core values such as 'Respect'. Pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. These ideas are reiterated through school and classroom rules.

Our PSHE curriculum embodies values of Mutual Respect through units of learning such as Relationships and Being a Responsible Citizen.

Through sports coaching, we promote an attitude of equality and fairness.

On a general level, the school undertakes assemblies which uphold traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance. These are also taught within PSHE and RE lessons and on an informal nature throughout the school days.

TOLERANCE OF THOSE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS - *I know everyone is unique and I respect everyone*

The key value of respect ensures tolerance of those who have different faiths, cultures and beliefs. Dorridge Primary School enhances pupils' understanding of different faiths, cultures and beliefs through RE, collective worship, visits and visitors and the wider curriculum. There are visits to places of worship and visitors from other faiths come and share their culture and religious customs with pupils. In addition, each year group learns about different faiths as part of the Solihull Syllabus for RE.

To accept that others, have different faiths or beliefs (or none) and these should be accepted and tolerated:

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity.

Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are held.