

BRITISH VALUES

The Department of Education 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.”*

At Bishop’s Castle Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Children are actively encouraged to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly. Our active **school council** is one such example. Every September we have an election week when the candidates for class representatives on the school council pitch their election manifesto to the rest of their class. A secret ballot ensues and the results are announced in a special assembly. The children love this process and have great respect for the outcomes. The school council representatives (2 per class from Reception to Year 6) meet every week then take the ideas from the meeting back to their classes for discussion. Every child also contributes their ideas to the composition of their own **class charter** every year. This sets ground rules for classroom conduct and establishes the standards of behaviour children can expect from each other over the year ahead.

In addition the school council is allocated a small budget, which, in consultation with the school, it spends on equipment to enhance play.

The school council also organises a variety of charity fund-raising events.

Values Education

A key focus of collective worship is values education. The values we study, which have been chosen in consultation with the children are :

- Love
- Friendship and Loyalty
- Cooperation
- Patience
- Honesty, Trust and Responsibility
- Courage
- Gratitude and Thankfulness
- Aspiration and Ambition
- Respect and Tolerance
- Inquisitiveness and Curiosity
- Dedication and Perseverance
- Creativity.

We actively engage the children in discussing these values and find ways of reflecting upon them on a regular basis, for instance in mixed-age assembly “friendship group” discussions, or through the use of personal “learning logs”.

Weekly ‘Values’ assemblies cover these aspects throughout the year.

Positive Behaviour – Values in Action

The best reward systems are those which reward children at unexpected times. At Bishops Castle Primary School all the staff award marbles to children whenever we observe praise-

worthy behaviour. These marbles are collected during Friday's assembly when we are able to talk about why marbles have been awarded. This enables the children to constantly hear, and have reinforced, the positive ethos we are trying to create, without the need for a long list of rules.

Individual Liberty

Children are taught that freedom can only be gained as a result of understanding and developing the parallel value of personal responsibility. Children are thus expected to contribute to school life. They do this by :

- Looking after the reception area and taking telephone calls during lunch break
- Running the school library and keeping it tidy
- Taking bus registers
- Dining hall monitors
- Playground monitors

The School in the Community

As a school we regularly engage with parents and make a contribution to the life of the wider community.

We do this by

- Holding termly parent assemblies for each class
- Giving concerts and performances in the community
- Performing for elderly groups in the community
- Running a monthly cafe in the Town Hall
- Attending community events such as the armistice day remembrance commemoration
- Being a part of a cooperative trust of nine schools and sharing our learning and resources with them

The School in the Wider World, Engagement, Respect and Tolerance

We encourage the children to understand the diversity of world cultures and beliefs.

Through a regular programme of visits and visitors we enable the children to experience this diversity at first hand. Recent events have included three visits from "Creative Workshops" who discussed issues around Britishness, Immigration and immigrant experiences in Britain, Osiligi, a Ghanaian drumming and dancing group., and a young children's theatre production of "Handa's Surprise".

By the time they leave us all children have learnt about the beliefs and practices of people of the following world faiths; Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

At Bishop's Castle Primary School we will actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to the school's stated values, including those expressing 'extremist' views.

PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

The Governing Body of Bishop's Castle Primary School has a **zero tolerance** approach to extremist behaviour for all school community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our children protects them from exposure to negative influences.

We are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our children. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

This policy was reviewed by the Safeguarding Committee of the Governing Body on 22nd September 2020

It will be reviewed during the Autumn Term 2023