

## How we promote British Values at Matching Green CE School

The DfE 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.” The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated recently.

The school’s values and ethos is one of kindness, friendship, endurance, thankfulness and forgiveness. The recognition that all people are to be valued regardless of beliefs, background, socio-economic status or ethnic origin is reflected in the school’s Equality Statement and rooted in the school’s Vision and aims.

Our teaching of SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) actively promotes all the identified British Values across the whole curriculum and through everyday life. These values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

**Democracy:** Pupils are taught how they can influence decision making through the democratic process. They also learn about how the voting system works, the role of Parliament and the role of local councillors. Children are also involved in the understanding of voting for Parent Governors and through other relevant, political events that are happening in the wider world.

Children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council: the class reps put forward their applications and they are then voted for by their classmates. The School Council work with the staff and the Governing Body to improve the school, all children are encouraged to discuss matters of concern with their class rep or to use the pupil voice box located in the corridor. Pupil questionnaires and interviews also give the staff and Governing Body the opportunity to hear the pupil voice and to take actions accordingly. The Head Teacher and class teachers often use class votes to decide upon class or whole school activities.

**The Rule of Law:** The importance of Laws whether they be the class and school rules which have been discussed and agreed with the children that are consistently reinforced throughout the day. The children 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. The children have an understanding about the policies and procedures that are in place to tackle poor behaviour and attitudes which are not as expected. Laws about our community and our country are also discussed, visits from authorities such as our Community Police Officer, the Fire Service and Road Safety/Bikeability services help to reinforce this message. The Year 6 children also attend 'Crucial Crew' where they learn about the importance of following various rules to ensure their own personal safety and that of others.

From the beginning of their time at Matching Green children are taught about the difference between right and wrong as well as the importance of honesty and forgiveness through our class and school values.

**Individual Liberty:** Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to be independent learners and 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 the provision of a safe environment and empowering education, these choices can be made ranging from the level of challenge in a lesson, to the participation of extra-curricular activities, to what they would like for lunch.

Before taking part in an activity that could bring about risk children are encouraged to discuss these risks and as the children progress through the school they are encouraged to put together their own risk assessment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms to make choices and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

**Mutual Respect:** As a church community mutual respect is at the heart of our school values and is a huge part of our school ethos. Our behaviour policy has evolved around values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions, Collective Worship and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown, they are given the opportunity to reflect on ways in which we can show respect to one another.

**Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:** Within our faith community, pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our RE and

PSHE curriculum and through Collective Worship. Here at Matching Green we endeavour to enhance 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 have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning both within classes at school and outside of school.

Active support of charities, both in Britain and overseas, develops the children's appreciation of and respect for the difference and inequalities in the world and of all the things that we share as human beings, for example the need for food, shelter, security and love.