



BRITISH VALUES IN THE CURRICULUM

“Keeping our children safe and ensuring school prepares them for life in modern Britain”

Why the introduction of British Values?

This change is an important step towards ensuring there is a strong legal basis for intervening in those schools where this is an issue. The vast majority of schools already promote British Values. This is about making sure there are the tools to intervene if children are being let down.

What do we mean by British Values?

The government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy – values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Schools will be expected to focus on, and be able to show how their work with pupils is effective in, embedding fundamental British Values. Actively promoting also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values.

How do we do this at Cosgrove Village Primary School?

Democracy

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our weekly school council meetings. We meet in mixed age groups to discuss issues and suggest ways to improve the life of the school. The council organise fundraising events, lead assemblies and are genuinely able to effect change within the school.

Children have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school. All subject leaders spend time asking children about the curriculum as part of their monitoring of the subject area in order to make changes or develop certain areas of the curriculum. Our children genuinely feel that their opinions matter, and they do!

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as 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 this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Our school rules are displayed around the school and consistently applied by all staff.

Individual liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, which desert they have with their hot dinner, of participation in our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

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. Our year 6 'prefects' play an important part in how this transfers to our children in the school day.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. As part of our RE work we actively seek to visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. Our assemblies link to significant religious festivals from a wide range of beliefs and we have outside companies carry out faith and cultural awareness days as part of our curriculum.

[What does this mean for our curriculum?](#)

Explicit teaching through:

- PSHE/Citizenship (can be seen on our topic webs on our website)
- RE
- Assembly/Collective worship and celebrations
- Special events linked to famous British people from history who demonstrated the fundamental British Values

Embedded in all subjects through:

- Pupil voice
- Welfare and safety of pupils
- High expectations of behaviour/manners