



Promoting British Values at Butterknowle Primary School

The role of promoting British Values is not something new to Butterknowle Primary School. British values are promoted in much of what we do during school assemblies, Religious Education, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). Butterknowle Primary School, as a genuine 'community school', promotes the basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

These values are also integral to our school vision and values.

As well as actively promoting British values the opposite also applies, we would actively challenge pupils, staff and parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' values.

Being part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Butterknowle. We value and celebrate being part of Britain, in general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs throughout the course of the year, for example Harvest Festival in the Autumn term and trips to the pantomime at Christmas and Easter celebrations. We also value and celebrate national events such as the recent 100th anniversary of the start of WW1.

Children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. For example from a geographical stance our children learn about and have a better understanding of Britain through learning about it's coasts, rivers and mountains. We also teach European and world geography and identify where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world.

Historically we identify and learn about key moments in British history and looking at key historic figures that have shaped our past.

Through our curriculum areas, links with other schools in County Durham, Darlington and Iceland, MFL, trips to other schools in our region, Geographical Locational Knowledge, Cultural Art, visiting musicians from abroad, Poetry and Stories, our Assemblies and our very actions, we teach our pupils;

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process

- an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination.

Democracy

To promote British values of Democracy:

- Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Butterknowle Primary School. Democracy is a central to how we operate.
- The school council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by members of the school community. The council has a say into how the school can be changed and in the past the school council has been involved in changes within the school such as appointing a new Headteacher last year and interviewing a new after school leader.
- They have a small budget that they are able to spend on resources that can help with the implementation of changes and they decide how this money should be spent.
- 'Pupil voice' is something that is actively encouraged to ensure that the children are involved and engaged in their own learning. Children are asked to respond and reflect on the teaching and learning they receive as well as make suggestions for the school council to consider.
- 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.
- We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.
- Parents opinions are welcomed at Butterknowle Primary School through methods such as questionnaires , surveys, parents evenings and opportunities to comment on weekly newsletters.

Rules and Laws

To promote British values of Rules and Laws:

- The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices.

- At the start of the school year, each class discusses the school rules and class routines, principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe environment.
- Pupils are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involve , and the consequences when laws are broken.
- These values are reinforced in different ways
 - ✓ Visit from authorities such as the police and fire service
 - ✓ During Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about.
 - ✓ During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules.

Individual liberty

To promote British values of Individual Liberty:

- Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to refuse respectfully express views and beliefs.
- Through the provision of a safe and supportive environment, we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely :
 - ✓ Choices about what learning challenge or activity.
 - ✓ Choices about how they record their learning .
 - ✓ Choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities.
- Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our PSHE lessons
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Due to our predominantly white British community the importance of promoting and celebrating a range of different backgrounds and beliefs is at the forefront of our schools aims and ethos.
- Our aim is to ' prepare children for the future and this drives us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures
- Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences we may have.
- Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect.

- Through Religious Education, Relationship and Sex Education, PSHE and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures.
- Celebrating cultural difference through assemblies.

Whilst instances contrary to our values are relatively rare, we can not guarantee that there will never be instances which are contrary to our values. Each will be treated in line with our school policies and expectations.