



## **TEACHING BRITISH VALUES**

### **Promoting British Values at Parkfield Community School (2014-2015)**

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 this year (2014). At Parkfield these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

#### **Democracy**

Parkfield is currently working towards becoming a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Each year the children decide upon their class charter and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the charter. The School Rules are also annually reviewed with the children.

We have a student council, which meets regularly during the school year. These children have had to write a presentation to their peers to persuade them why they should be elected to the role at start of the year. Each school councillor was voted for by their class. The school council is genuinely able to effect change within the school. This year’s school council, in September, visited the Houses of Parliament in London, where they had a special lesson about democracy and pupil voice and experienced seeing democracy in action during their special tour of the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

Democracy is also actively practised in classes with children voting on a range of issues, from how to spend the money in their class moneyboxes, to how to improve the facilities in the school playground.

In the first 6 weeks of every new academic year, each year group delivers a weekly lesson to promote pupil voice. We use storybooks and role play scenarios to ensure that every child knows what pupil voice is and how to use it.

The children also have regular electronic questionnaires on issues ranging from playground issues, to their opinions about residential they have experienced and their thoughts about their learning in Computing. These then feed into future planning.

How we influence democracy is explored through PSHE and assemblies. This includes looking at historical figures such as Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks and exploring the effectiveness of different approaches.

#### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country is consistently reinforced at Parkfield.



Pupils are taught from an early age the 'rules' of the school. These are our Parkfield Values. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Many of these rules and laws are taught through our PPA curriculum, which includes many safety aspects, such as: road safety, firework safety, e-safety and fire safety. We also have strong links with our police community support officer who comes into school to work with our children.

Through the UNICEF Rights Respecting School our children are educated about their rights as a child and injustices which can take place to others are explored.

### **Individual Liberty**

At Parkfield, 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 from where pupils can make informed choices, through a safe environment (both in the real world and through our online learning platform – Moodle) and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record (for example using their iPad or not or how they present group work), of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Stereotypes are regularly challenged at Parkfield and we've worked hard to raise the aspirations of all of our children with visits to the Skills Show, which provides opportunities for children to see and experience different career possibilities and through successful projects such as the Mosaic Project which was aimed at improving the aspirations of girls.

### **Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values – 'No Outsiders' at Parkfield is a high profile message that is communicated to children. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

We have a SEAL Room (for KS2) and a Rainbow Room (for KS1), which organises support for children (sometimes with outside agencies) and the development of specific children's social and emotional skills.

Anti-bullying has a high profile within the school with it being addressed through general classroom practice, the PSHE curriculum, assemblies and outside people, such as theatre groups.

Children are also taught about respect and bullying in the online world also, through our learning platform and through regular e-safety lessons. They also know what to do if they see something disrespectful.



## **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

Parkfield is a diverse school with both staff and children reflecting a large number of different ethnicities. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons, assemblies and PSHE lessons actively challenge stereotypes and reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others no matter their ethnicity, beliefs, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age or any other protected characteristics (as outlined in the 2010 Equalities Act and article 14 of UNICEF's Rights of the child). Our popular School Fayre Diversity Days have helped to promote this, as different ethnicities reflected within our school have shared their rich cultures and traditions with others. This formed a small part of work that went towards our school achieving the Cultural Diversity Quality Standard Award in June 2014.

Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children, each year, visit at least one place of worship. This has been timetabled so that children will visit a place of worship for each major religion by the time they leave our school. This has proved very popular with children. Major religious festivals are acknowledged through assemblies and the RE curriculum.

We encourage our children to interact with children from other schools, both locally and further afield, through organised activities. This includes our partnership school Lady Katherine Leveson Church of England School in Temple Balsall, which we regularly visit. Some of our parents have also visited here to take part in a cultural 'Food Share' with parents from this school.

At Parkfield, we actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to the values we hold as a school, including 'extremist' views.