

Promoting British Values

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 Harmondsworth these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways. We keep an up to date audit of all such teaching and learning opportunities.

Democracy

Throughout year the children discuss the Golden Rules and how these are incorporated into their classrooms. The rules are key to the school’s behaviour policy.

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a school council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council has its own budget and is able to genuinely effect change within the school. Two council members for each year group are voted in by their class.

Year Six children have the opportunity to campaign to be a House Captain. Eight House Captains are elected by Year 5 and 6 pupils. House Captains have responsibilities to carry out throughout the school year.

Children are encouraged to nominate pupils for weekly Headteacher awards.

Children have an annual questionnaire in which they are able to put forward their views about the school.

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. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message. Year 6 also attend an annual Citizenship Day which involves activities involving all the emergency services.

Individual Liberty

Within school, 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 for young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

As a Rights Respecting School, mutual respect is at the heart of our values. 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.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Harmondsworth is situated in an area which is culturally diverse. Assemblies are regularly planned to include stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. The school has a link with a local group called Hillingdon Faith which represents a wide variety of religions in the area. Hillingdon Faith visit school regularly to run workshops on themes such as respect.

At Harmondsworth we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including ‘extremist’ views.