

Promoting British Values



LOWER SCHOOL

Where Learning Starts

Rationale

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. At Westoning Lower School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Democratic values underpin the ethos of the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Ambassadors, and via the listening culture where all adults listen to pupils and value their views. Pupils' views are sought on a range of issues through the School Ambassadors, pupil voice on various areas, and through an annual questionnaire to pupils. Our school Behaviour Policy includes rewards which the pupils can vote on as a House group. Pupils are also included in decisions within teaching.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Westoning Lower School. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. These are through our Ready, Respect, Safe Code and class rules. 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

At Westoning Lower 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 informed choices, through a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise 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, of participation in our numerous 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', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies relating to values, what they mean and how they are shown. The school ethos and aims promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our class rules and Ready, Respect, Safe Code, as well as our Behaviour Policy.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing 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 different forms of 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 within classes and the school. Year 4 have the opportunity to take part in the Bedford Faith tour.