

## British Values Statement

The Department for Education has introduced a statutory duty for schools to promote British Values more actively from September 2014, and to ensure they are taught in schools.

Oak Meadow Primary School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. Oak Meadow Primary School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five key British Values are:

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

Here at Oak Meadow, we use strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways the school seeks to instil British Values.

### Democracy

- Democratic procedures are in place within classes to elect school council representatives.
- School Council members discuss on-going issues within school and collaboratively decide on the best action to take. Representatives also take ideas and agreed actions back to classes for children to be able to voice their opinions and ideas on the topics discussed.
- Democratic procedures operate throughout school when electing representative Year 6 House Captains.
- Pupils are encouraged to vote within class to decide on activities for 'golden time'.
- At the start of the school year pupils are encouraged to devise 'class rules'.
- The advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain is taught within topic / PSHE lessons.
- Good speaking and listening skills are encouraged and promoted within all lessons across the curriculum.
- Pupils are encouraged to express their views and opinions throughout debates within a wide range of lessons and subjects.
- An annual Public Services Day is planned in order to promote respect and to teach pupils how they are held accountable.
- Group work, partner work and listening skills are encouraged throughout all lessons thus developing our pupils' social development.
- Pupils from all year groups in the school have been elected to become 'Eco-Warriors'.
- In Year 3, options are given for pupils to select sanctions and punishments for their behaviour.
- In Year 1 and Reception, pupils' speaking and listening is integral within lessons as they are encouraged to choose and initiate their own learning and experiences within given topics and subjects.
- In Year 4 and 6, PSHE lessons focused upon the Scottish Referendum; local and general elections are also discussed as appropriate.
- MP Emma Reynolds has visited school to discuss topical issues and share her experiences as a member of parliament.
- Future plans: General election to be held all over the country in May 2015; Oak Meadow are planning to address this by holding elections of their own with children voicing their opinions/ whole school day

where children can hold debates, voice opinions, be persuasive and also vote who they would like as their school representative. Balloting stations to be put into place throughout school.

### The Rule of Law

- School rules are clear and fair and are located all around the school (in every classroom) to ensure adherence to them at all times.
- Pupils are able to distinguish right from wrong; this is targeted throughout the school day by teachers, teaching assistants and lunchtime supervisors.
- Behaviour Policy details praises, sanctions, what is acceptable and what is not to support pupils' behaviour and access to effective teaching and learning.
- PSHE sessions help pupils to understand and respect school rules and to know why they are in place and why we should follow them.
- Pupils are aware of the consequences if school rules are broken as the school operates a 'Good to be Green' behaviour strategy.
- Reception - Year 6, pupils are encouraged to say why certain behaviour is not acceptable and to be responsible for their actions suggesting alternative behaviours.
- During assembly time, a 'theme of the week' is addressed to support pupils' awareness of the world in which they live and to prepare them for dealing with events responsibly and sensibly, e.g. how to resolve conflicts.
- The annual Service Day for pupils involving the local community services, e.g. the police, fire service and paramedics, help to reinforce the message that everyone is accountable for their actions.
- E-safety rules are in place through the school and pupils are addressing these within their computing topic. eSafety Day (10<sup>th</sup> February) has been held within school and further teaching and learning ensued for keeping pupils safe in their use of ICT.

### Individual Liberty

- Self- knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence is promoted throughout the whole of the curriculum.
- Freedom of speech is promoted across the whole school and curriculum. However, pupils are taught about opinion and fact and shown how to identify these and what impact they might have. (Critical Resource Analysis; Literacy, Topic, Science).
- Bias agendas are shared and spoken about within computing / topic lessons across the school and e-safety is promoted and encouraged.
- Pupils are encouraged to make individual choices throughout the school day with staff support within a safe, secure environment.
- Pupils are presented with opportunities to share and discuss bias agendas in KS2 and what impact these may have on making decisions.
- A strong 'anti-bullying policy' and culture is promoted across school.
- Encouraging pupils' responsibility, staff allow pupils to change their own cards on 'Good to be Green' chart to ensure they take responsibility for their own behaviour.
- Celebration time is carried out in Reception and Year 1 in order to celebrate and address personal differences.
- Year 6 study influential figures in history, such as; Martin Luther King and Malala Yonsafsi, e.t.c. as good role models promoting freedom of speech and standing up for what you believe in.
- Within circle time, pupils in Years 2, 4 and 5 are encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions on topical, controversial subjects.

### Mutual Respect

- Respect for individual differences throughout school is demanded and pupils are taught to respect people for who they are throughout the school.
- Respect is referred to within school rules and explanations are shared for why we must respect others - integral within the ethos of the school.
- In PSHE, pupils are asked to talk about, 'why is it good to be me?' thus promoting individual differences and respect for one-another.
- Throughout Oak Meadow, pupils are taught to wait their turn to speak in class and listen to other people's opinions and thoughts.
- Working in collaboration with a local authority special school, 'wheel-chair user' workshops are held annually to develop pupils' understanding, respect and empathy for people's disabilities.
- Year 1 study 'Elmer the Elephant' topic which helps to encourage respect for others and their differences.

- 'Show and tell' timetabled in Year 3 provides opportunity for pupils to celebrate individual differences and lifestyles of each-other.
- Across the school, year groups use 'spidersweb' in order to help pupils celebrate how we are similar and different to other people.
- 'Black History month' was addressed in Year 4, providing pupils with an insight into the history behind this race and also how it changed the country we live in.

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

- In accordance with the RE Agreed Syllabus, a range of religions are taught via RE to develop pupils' knowledge, understanding, respect and tolerance.
- Visits to places of worship representing the range of faiths within Wolverhampton are planned within the community are planned.
- Pupils are actively encouraged to share their faiths and beliefs throughout the entire school day representative of the school's ethos).
- PSHE 'circle time' also allows for open discussions about religion and beliefs. Pupils benefit from these types of discussions as it allows them to have a better knowledge of other pupils' religions and beliefs.
- Year 1 RE celebrates a range of religious festivals; Year 6 study and share the religious values of Buddhism, Islam and Christianity and Year 4 focus their learning upon Hinduism and Christianity examining special journeys, personal worship and pilgrimages to holy places.