

Breachwood Green JMI



British Values Policy

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British Values

Promoting British Values at Breachwood Green JMI School

The Department for Education state that there is a 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 were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014.

Actively promoting the key values means challenging behaviour or opinions in school that are contrary to fundamental British values. At Breachwood Green JMI School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the school. We ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to. We demonstrate how democracy works by providing democratic process when voting for School Council leaders. Every child is a member of a School Council Group. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern for each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through School Council. The elections of the School Council leaders, scribes and House and Sports Captains are based on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. Pupils are also elected to be members of the school PTFA and Eco Schools committees. The School Council meets on a monthly basis with a clear agenda identifying AOB for them to discuss items outside of the agenda. We invite parents and carers for their views and they are encouraged to complete an annual Governors questionnaire. All staff are involved in key decisions.

The Rule of Law

Pupils should understand that while different people may hold different views about what is right and wrong all people living in Britain are subject to the rules of civil and criminal law. The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Our school has ‘Golden Rules’, which are deeply embedded in our work every day. Each class also discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our 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 these are reinforced in the PHSE curriculum, Circle Times and Assemblies. The children are also actively invited to decide upon the sanctions used when class rules are broken. Law and rules are a key topic covered in Y5/Y6 through exploring how laws have been written and the process of law enforcement. Pupils will be made aware of the difference between the law of the land and religious law.

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 our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and P.S.H.E. lessons and through speaking and listening activities such as debates. Our children in year 6 choose to run clubs for younger children during their lunch breaks encouraging free choice and understanding of the needs of others. The children are also given the freedom to decide which extra-curricular activities they attend. In addition, children are taught to exercise rights and freedom safely through e-safety and PHSE lessons. With freedom comes responsibility.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

The pupils and adults in school know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. The core value of Respect at Breachwood Green JMI School underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom. The children learn that we live in a country which is full of diversity. They are taught to respect and celebrate these differences, whatever they are. RE lessons, assemblies and work in curriculum areas highlight the differences and similarities between cultures, faiths and beliefs from around the world. Charity events are held termly at Breachwood Green JMI School with proceeds given to a charity chosen by the children through their school council meetings at the beginning of the academic year. They are frequently encouraged to consider people who are less fortunate than themselves. This is also underpinned by our Policies, class and school rules and our home school agreement. We will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents who express opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views

Our core value of Respect ensures tolerance of those who have different faiths and beliefs. Breachwood Green JMI School enhances pupils understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education studies; P.S.H.E. work; visits to other schools in different settings; welcoming visitors from other schools with a range of cultures and backgrounds and enjoying a depth of study during themed weeks. We also encourage members of different faiths and religions to come in and share their knowledge either through assemblies or class visits. The curriculum is enhanced through real life experiences, immersion activities or themed weeks of different cultures such as French Day, Brazil Week etc. We use teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths and cultures. Children are encouraged to participate in different cultures through art, role play, DT, sport and speaking and listening activities, experiencing different cultures and practices.