

Promoting British Values at Amblecote Pre-school

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 Amblecote Pre-school we understand that the society we live in is diverse and therefore, our curriculum and life within school reflects this. For our pupils, we aim to continually weave the thread of social, cultural, moral and spiritual British values throughout day to day school life. Underpinning this are the values and understanding of democracy, law, liberty, respect, tolerance, tradition and heritage. The 'Equality Act 2010' protects all individuals from discrimination and it is the Pre-schools duty to ensure that all individuals have equal access and opportunity to all that is on offer. Funding, including that for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and disadvantaged pupils, is used to target inequalities, to ensure equality.

At Amblecote Pre-school we uphold and teach pupils about British Values which are defined as:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

These values are taught explicitly through Personal Social and Emotional Development and Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL). We also teach British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Pre-school takes opportunities to actively promote British values through our daily activities and assemblies. We also actively promote British values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values. Actively promoting British values means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values including extremist views.

At Amblecote Pre-school, British Values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy is embedded within the Pre-school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to 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 and have their voices heard through small and large group times.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the Pre-school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. The children are aware of the consequences of not following the rules in their Pre-school community. The children learn to understand the difference between right and wrong in all aspects of school life throughout the session. 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, Health and Fire Service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

To encourage and promote good behaviour, attitude and work, we have devised a reward system. As a Pre-school, we are committed to praising children's efforts. We endeavour to praise the children informally, individually, during the session or in front of the whole class. Children are praised by teachers within main school also. Children are rewarded not only for achievement in curriculum areas, but for behaviour. Rewards are given in the form of stickers and certificates. Children's achievements are also recognised during weekly Praise Assemblies and through our Open Door Policy with parents/carers.

Individual Liberty

At Amblecote Pre-school, our pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Our children are encouraged to give their opinions and share these ideas with due regard for the feelings of others. As part of our PSED curriculum we place a huge emphasis on the social and emotional learning of our children. We celebrate achievements both in and out of school in assemblies and Family Groups, through certificates and stickers which are sent home.

Mutual Respect

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 Pre-school community treat each other with respect.

Posters around the Pre-school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Young children will challenge each other when not showing respect and encourage each other to be respectful. They will inform staff and staff follow through with "Conflict Resolutions".

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 prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in SEAL and PSED. Members of different faiths or religions, especially parents and other family members are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within the Pre-school. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures.

Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within the Pre-school. Throughout school life the children are encouraged to discuss differences between people such as their faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality (where appropriate). They also discuss differences in family life such as looked after children or young carers.

British Traditions and Heritage

We celebrate the role of Britain both historically and in the present. We want pupils to have knowledge of and be proud of their British heritage and the cultural and historical traditions that we are renowned for the world over. This involves celebrating Royal events, Remembrance Day, festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, and Easter.

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