TEACHING BRITISH VALUES

Promoting British Values at Granard Primary School

The DfE has 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'.

Granard Primary School's core values were developed in partnership with staff, pupils and governors. Our overarching vision and values run through the school's ethos and are underpinned by a monthly focus. Pupils demonstrating the 'Value of the Month' are awarded in the Headteacher's weekly Achievement Assembly. Each month, class assemblies focus on the relevant value. Parents of these children are invited to share in the celebration. The values are displayed in each class as well as around the communal areas around the school, to remind our community of our values.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At Granard Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. Class Rights and Responsibilities are displayed with the rules that support these. These are shared and signed in the Autumn term by every member of a class. In class, philosophy and debate assemblies allow pupils to discuss the weekly topics and how they relate to them, their life, their school and the wider global community. Annual voting, where democracy is explicitly taught, selects a new School Council each year. Year 6 children are also given opportunities to run for House Captains. The school also has school prefects who take responsibility for different aspects of school life.

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 through assemblies. They 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, are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

Granard Primary School has a clear Behaviour Policy (designed alongside pupils) which makes behaviour expectations very clear for all pupils and staff. There are clear consequences for the breaking of school behaviour rules with the emphasis on the 'behaviour' being inappropriate and not the pupil. Time to reflect on behaviour with an adult helps to support future positive behaviour.

Individual Liberty

From entering in Reception through to Year 6, pupils are actively encouraged to develop independence and make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. 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. Pupils have regular opportunities to make choices through the school day, week and year. Places for School Council and House Captains are applied for directly by pupils. Whether it be through choice of challenge during lessons or of how they record their ideas, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

Our school ethos revolves around our core values. Posters and displays around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, 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. Collective worship, assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based 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. Visits to places of worship encourage children to understand how other communities practice their beliefs. Shared celebrations of different festivals are celebrated to encourage a sharing of community. Our IPC curriculum offers an international development which links to PSHE and RE.