

PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES



Promoting British Values at Stretham Community Primary 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. At Stretham Community Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

- **Democracy:**

Democracy is rife within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Class and School Councils. The elections of School Council Representatives are based solely on pupil votes. Pupils in class decide their class codes at the start of each year through a democratic process of debate and agreement.

- **The Rule of Law:**

The importance of laws or rules, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced constantly; particularly through school assemblies and when dealing with behaviour.

Pupils are taught

- the value and reasons behind rules,
- that rules and laws govern and protect us,
- the responsibilities of individuals to follow rules and laws
- and the consequences when laws are broken.

Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; etc. occur regularly and help reinforce this message.

- **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 young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and how to exercise these safely (for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons).

- **Mutual Respect:**

Our school aims contain commitments for all stakeholders. Implicit and explicit through these commitments are expectations of respecting others. Pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown.

- **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. The law states that school assemblies should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. We interpret this to mean that the values put forward through assemblies are those to which a Christian would agree; however every effort is made to ensure that these themes and values are also those to which those of any or no faith would also subscribe. Tolerance and respect of those with different faiths and beliefs is an integral part of the teaching; explicitly in RE and PSHE.