

Promoting British Values at The Pochin School – March 2015

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 The Pochin School British values are regularly reinforced in the following ways:

Democracy

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. The election of a girl and boy School Councillor from each of Classes 2, 3 and 4 is organised through pupil vote from each class for those pupils who wish to stand for office. The School Councillors for Class 5 are the Head Boy and Head Girl.

There are posts of Head Boy and Girl, House Captains and prefects. Each candidate has the opportunity to make a speech to the whole school which gives them a chance to explain why they wish to be elected and how they would like to lead the school in their respect role. Following this, all children in Classes 3, 4 and 5 votes by secret ballot for their choice.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, including those governing the individual, the class and the whole school, are consistently reinforced. The children understand these laws as rules. They are taught the reasons why rules exist and the consequences on the individual and our school society as a whole if rules are broken. They also understand that working within agreed rules brings its own rewards.

At the start of each school year class teachers work with children to draw up age appropriate class rules that all class members sign up to.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind British laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make personal choices, knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering them through education.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHCE lessons.

Whether it be through choice of challenge or working partners, choice of how they record their work, pupils are given the freedom to make a wide range of choices.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Respect is a core value within which our school ethos and behaviour policy are rooted.

Through class, year group and whole school activities and discussions pupils have a good understanding of what respect means and how it is shown. Our class and school rules and our behaviour policy thoroughly reinforce this ethos.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is encouraged through our ethos of respect and through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. Within our RE curriculum we study the background and practices of a range of faiths practiced in Leicester and Leicestershire, including the Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Jewish faiths. We take our children to visit places of worship of these faiths and provide opportunities for our children to speak with and listen to faith leaders.

Discussions in RE and PSHCE lessons at an age appropriate level give pupils opportunities to consider the reasons for and consequences of religious and racial intolerance and prejudice-based bullying.