

Promoting British Values

The DfE have 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 were reiterated in 2014. At Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School these values are promoted regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Each year the children decide upon their class rules and their rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the rules. Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a school council, Purple Patch, which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in council meetings. All members of the school council are elected and need to canvas for votes during the election period. School also has a sports council and Head boy and girl positions which are all elected. We have links with the Parliamentary Education Service who provide periodic visits to promote the work of parliament. In addition, our local MP has visited school to explain his role and work to the children.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently promoted throughout the school day. The main curriculum (including the choice of reading matter and curriculum content) and wider activities, including assemblies, enable children to value and understand the reasons behind law. Children are taught that laws govern and protect us and that there are consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message. In addition, school is part of Durham Constabulary’s Mini Police Project. This gives children first hand experiences in relation to how the law is upheld.

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 advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHCE based activities and curriculum content.

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 school community treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School is situated in an area where the population is overwhelmingly “White British”. However, the school population is more diverse than this, with a range of nationalities, cultures and faiths evident within school. Therefore, we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Assemblies are planned to address issues of culture and faith either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of

faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHCE teaching and integrated curriculum activities support this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

We are immensely proud of our school and our local community and strive to work with all stakeholders to prepare our children for their future in an ever changing world. We feel that the promotion of Fundamental British Values is at the core of school's values, ethos and climate and we promote these so that our children are prepared and equipped to play a positive role in modern Britain.

At Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values because our school is a school for **all**, regardless of race, culture or religion. Any form of discrimination is not tolerated.