



Half Acres Primary Academy

The Promotion of British Values

On 27 November 2014, the Department for Education published guidance on promoting British values in schools to ensure young people leave education prepared for life in modern Britain.

At Half Acres we 'actively promote' the fundamental British values of

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Examples of the understanding and knowledge pupils are expected to learn include:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour;
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Examples of actions schools can take to promote British values are to:

- include in suitable parts of the curriculum - as appropriate for the age of pupils/students - material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries;
- ensure all pupils/students within school have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a Pupil/Student Council whose members are voted for by the pupils/students;
- use opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections to promote fundamental British values and provide pupils/students with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view;
- consider the role of extra-curricular activity, including any run directly by pupils/students, in promoting fundamental British values.

Promoting British values at Half Acres and Ackton Pastures schools

The British values of:

- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

are encountered by pupils every day within school through our promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. Listed below are some examples of how we promote these values in our school community:

Democracy

Pupil voice is significant in regards to life at school. Every year our pupils hold elections in order to vote for members to form a School Council who then play a strong role in our schools. They are involved in a wide range of aspects of school life and help to make our schools a better place. Pupil interviews are conducted throughout the year so that the children have a say in how the school improves. We believe that the formation of the School Council and the active participation of our pupils, along with assemblies and PHSE lessons that explicitly explore democracy in Britain, will contribute to the early development of an understanding of democracy. Opportunities in the curriculum (appropriate to the age of the pupils) for exploring democracy and how it works include the Ancient Greek history topic in Upper Key Stage 2.

The Rule of Law

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to.

This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum, especially PHSE and Seal. The involvement of our pupils in the creation of their class vision helps them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken. We allow opportunity to debate and discuss the reasons for laws so that children can recognise the importance of these for their own protection. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, the fire brigade and magistrate representatives. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.

Individual Liberty

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. In lessons, learning tasks may be left for the child to decide upon. We encourage children to choose the task that will challenge them, giving them more freedom to determine their own learning. Assemblies to commemorate national days and events eg saints days, Remembrance Day, also promote British values. We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. At school we believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily life will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. The children learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the school and in the classrooms.

Respect is a strong part of our schools and is reflected in our values. The children learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments.

Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

A culturally rich and diverse curriculum is offered at Half Acres Primary Academy. We strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future. The curriculum, especially in RE and History give regular opportunities to learn about and reflect upon a wide range of religions and cultures. An example of this is and P4C lessons encourage children to express their views politely and to tolerate the views of others. Seals lessons and themed assemblies promote respect and tolerance.

Extremist Views

Half Acres Primary Academy will not tolerate extremist views and this will be dealt with by liaison with the appropriate bodies.