

Promoting British Values at Shurdington C of E 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, and these values have been reiterated this year (2014). At Shurdington these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Each year the children decide upon their class rules. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the rules. We have a school council which meets regularly with the Headteacher to discuss issues raised in class. The council has its own budget and is genuinely able to effect change within the school. Every child on the student council is voted in by their class. The school has also recently elected a school Prime Minister. House captains and the Worship team are also elected. Children have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Shurdington. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school and all understand our Good to be Green behaviour scheme. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broke. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

At Shurdington, 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 informed choices, through a safe environment and an 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 eSafety and PHSE lessons. They also understand that with rights come responsibilities.

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 Different Faiths and Beliefs

At Shurdington we actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PHSE lessons reinforce Messages of tolerance and respect for others. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. As a school we work closely with families from different faiths in order to ensure that all children are included. We have strong international links with Kenya and Japan.