



## Promoting Fundamental British Values at Sparsholt C of E Primary School



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."

Sparsholt C of E Primary School is committed to serving its community and surrounding areas. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom, and therefore those it serves. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

The school accepts admissions from all those entitled to an education under British law, including pupils of all faiths or none. It follows the policies outlined by its governing body regarding equal opportunities, which guarantee that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. It seeks to serve all.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the '**Prevent Strategy**' details of which can be found on our website.

These values are:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

At Sparsholt, our children are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance and understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in the United Kingdom are subject to its law.

We promote these values through our school vision statement and own school Christian values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity, our whole school curriculum and through enrichment activities.

As well as actively promoting British Values, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views. The British values we promote are not unique to Britain. We acknowledge that they differ in no way from the values of the many countries and the cultural backgrounds represented by our families.

Below are just a few examples of how we promote British values:

### **Being Part of Britain**

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Sparsholt Primary School. Alongside this, we value and celebrate living in, and being part of, Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year; for example, Harvest Festival during the Autumn term; Remembrance Day; our annual Carol Service and infant Nativity at Christmas; Easter, etc. We also value and celebrate national events such as royal celebrations, a general election and significant events such as the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One.

## **Democracy**

As part of our school ethos, children's views and opinions are listened to and valued. Each class develops their own class charter and sign it to ensure ownership and cooperation. In addition, pupils have opportunities to have their voices heard through our Pupil Governors (School Council), Peer Mentor programme, Sports Leaders and Worship Team.

The Worship team choose topics or issues that they wish to share with the school community and create their own ways of sharing those important messages. In addition, pupils share their views through Pupil Conferences (1-1 meeting between pupils and staff to discuss specific topics and share ideas about progress), PSHE and Circle Time and through Pupil Questionnaires.

Elections for Pupil Governors (School Council representatives) are undertaken in each class and regular meetings ensure pupil voice is heard. We as a school pride ourselves in fostering an environment where children are safe to share differing views.

We promote courageous advocacy within the school, with the pupils being able to make decisions about which charities and causes to support and how they will provide this support.

Our school behaviour policy also involves rewards, the formulation and review of which pupils are involved in.

## **The Rule of Law**

The importance of rules, for the class, the school, or the country, are reinforced throughout the school day, with our Golden Rules, Class Charters (written and agreed by the pupils), Behaviour Policy as well as through our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) programme and daily acts of worship. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws; that they protect us and keep us safe. They learn that everyone has rights and responsibilities and that there are consequences if laws are broken. Visitors from the community help to reinforce this message.

## **Individual Liberty**

At Sparsholt, pupils are actively encouraged and given the freedom to make choices knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how they record, where they work, how they present their learning outcomes or participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, all pupils are given the freedom to make choices. Pupils are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely through our online-safety teaching and PSHE lessons. As a school we are dedicated to teaching children about safe and sensible choices which will support them for life. Our Golden Rules 'Be kind, respectful, be safe and sensible, at school, at home and for life', underpin this.

We provide clear and consistent boundaries for children to explore moral issues and the idea of right and wrong. A strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed.

## **Mutual Respect**

At Sparsholt Primary school our core Christian value of Compassion helps to support our children on their journey through school and promote respect for differing beliefs, customs, life style choices and points of view. In our school community, differences are accepted and celebrated. We ensure children not only develop respect for each other but also for themselves.

Through class discussions and our daily worship, we ensure children understand what mutual respect is and how it is shown. These ideas are reiterated through the school rules and classroom charters, as well as our behaviour policy.

Additional support is provided for individual pupils, through ELSA and Thrive work with children. This support helps to develop self-esteem and to practise strategies pupils can employ to demonstrate their respect for others.

## **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

The school recognises its role in preparing children for life in modern Britain. This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by providing opportunities to experience such diversity. Through worship, class discussions, RE and personal and social education we reinforce messages of tolerance and respect.

Our RE curriculum follows the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus and provides a broad and balanced curriculum of faiths, religions and cultures. As part of our RE curriculum we visit different places of worship and invite people in to school to talk about their beliefs. We promote global awareness through themed weeks and by responding to global issues. Our core Christian values of Courage Compassion and Creativity ensure that children are taught essential skills, values and attitudes in order to contribute effectively to their school community. Staff and pupils are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.

Through the PSHE curriculum children are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender and differences of family situations. We offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which major religions are studied and respected and global dimension work embedded in many of our curriculum topics. These curriculum topics offer children the chance to reflect on our core Christian values and British values. We actively promote celebrations of different faiths and cultures. The school worship team (pupils) play an active part in specific worship themes during the year.

## **The Curriculum**

Staff regularly review the curriculum to ensure that it promotes the areas above. It also ensures that pupils are taught about key events and figures in history. Events during the year celebrate culturally diverse occasions and memorable events taking place in the country.

*The list below outlines samples of when and where such British Values are shared. The list is not exhaustive, and represents only some of what we do.*

## **Curriculum Studies**

Developing the skill base required to access and share information, make/express decisions and apply themselves to society and the world. These include the understanding and use of money, effective writing and reading skills, collaborative work, to discuss and research ideas and concepts, and gain a broad and balanced understanding of the society in which they live. Aspects of study beyond core skills include amongst other things, historical and geographical context of the United Kingdom, incorporating local and national evolution, as well as international comparisons. We teach children about the similarities and differences of ways of life within the U.K and beyond.

As an example, geographical studies on rivers, coasts, mountain topics including human geography elements ensure that children have a better understanding of what Britain is, learning more about:

- its coasts, rivers and mountains
- where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world
- Its similarities and differences to other countries around the world both from a physical and human perspective.

Key moments in British history are studied in the topics such as the Great Fire of London and significant historical figures such Guy Fawkes and Grace Darling. Pupils undertake a range of history topics about the development of Britain through different periods. These include understanding how Britain changed throughout periods such as the Stone Age and Iron Age, the effect of the Romans in Britain and how the Anglo-Saxon period affected change within the country and the changes in Crime and Punishment across the ages.

As a whole school, we celebrate key sporting events including the Olympics, the World cup etc., with themed sports days, competitions between pupils within school as well as with other schools in the local area. Themed displays promote the aspects of respect and resilience throughout the school.

*Further details about our Curriculum can be found on our website.*

### **Whole school daily acts of collective worship/assembly**

The sharing of stories, images, events, music and expectations that, with clarity and precision, promote the values expressed. Such proceedings vary in the methodology of delivery in order to secure interest and understanding and are designed to impact on children regardless of knowledge, experience or cognitive maturity. As a Church School, collective worship focuses on Christian values that are shared with other faiths and, as such, seeks to include, engage and value children of different faiths. We often invite visiting speakers in to our whole school Worship.

### **Physical Education:**

We actively promote the concept of 'fair play', following and developing rules; inclusion, celebrating and rewarding success; being magnanimous in defeat and participation in activities that promote kinship and affiliation with others.

There are many opportunities for all pupils throughout their time in school, to participate in competitions and events which promote these values, for example, lacrosse, football, rugby, netball, cross country, cricket and athletics tournaments.

All pupils participate in a range of physical and athletic activities within sports days, as well as local athletic meets. These take place within the school grounds, at other school facilities, as well as at venues around the county.

Whilst instances contrary to our values are incredibly rare, no school can guarantee that there will never be instances which are contrary to our values. Each is treated seriously in line with our policies and expectations.

*Should you feel that the school is not meeting this requirement, you should contact the school office and request to express your concerns to the Headteacher. Likewise, if you feel that anyone working at the school is, intentionally or otherwise undermining these values, you should report this directly to the Headteacher and/or the Chair of Governors.*