



Abbey Meads Community Primary School - (AMCPS) British Values

Note (this policy also appears as an appendix in our SMSC Policy)

Where many policies refer to tolerance, we actively avoid this term as it implies negatively tolerating something which is wrong.

We prefer to use acceptance and understanding wherever possible and at very least in conjunction with the term tolerance.

The Department for Education on the 27 November 2014 published guidance on promoting British Values in schools to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain.

- All have a duty to 'actively promote' the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and acceptance/understanding of those with different faiths and beliefs. These values were first set out by the government in the 'Prevent' strategy in 2011.
- Schools have previously been required to 'respect' these values, but recent policy changes mean that all schools must have a clear strategy for embedding these values and show how their work with pupils has been effective in doing so.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy - values of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance (we prefer acceptance) of those of different faiths and beliefs

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

- understanding how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or none) should be accepted and should not be the cause of prejudicial/discriminatory behaviour
- understanding of the importance of identifying and combating 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 - 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 within the school have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils;
- use opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections to promote fundamental British values and provide pupils 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, in promoting fundamental British values.

Our aim at Abbey Meads Community Primary School is to encourage pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in, and contribute positively to, life in Britain. We actively promote the fundamental British Values and this forms part of our wider work in school with children in relation to their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC).

We teach a broad and balanced curriculum that teaches elements of democracy, rules and laws, the monarchy, equality, values and virtues, environmental awareness and understanding of different faiths. Actively promoting British Values also refers to challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values. At AMCPS, values of tolerance and respect permeate all areas of school life. This creates a climate within which pupils feel safe and secure and therefore allows them to learn and develop.

These British Values are promoted throughout the curriculum and across the whole school. They are also seen in the school ethos, assemblies, special events and cultural celebrations. The following are a selection of activities that are evidence of our commitment to British Values.

We teach children about Democracy through:

- Children being involved in democratic processes e.g. voting for pupil councillors
- School council
- Visits from the local MP
- Class discussions

We teach children about Rule of Law through:

- School behaviour policy
- Keeping to Golden Rules in class and assemblies
- Implementation of Golden Time
- Reflecting on behaviour and learning during lessons
- Parent questionnaire questions about behaviour
- Visits from Police
- Understanding responsibility in school in terms of behaviour and learning attitudes
- Pupil roles in school - monitors/ helpers
- School values
- Local and national fundraising
- Community links - residential home, food bank
- Assembly - school council/ people who help us
- Buddy Benches and Peer Mediators
- Jigsaw activities
- Challenging stereotyping and bias
- Anti-bullying
- Sports values
- Rewards for behaviour and learning

We teach children about Tolerance (and understanding) through:

- Links with other schools
- Assemblies - stories from world faiths and cultures
- RE curriculum
- Reflection opportunities in assemblies
- School curriculum
- Inclusive school values
- Special assemblies - Harvest, Christingle, Remembrance Day
- Jigsaw / PSHE&C
- Golden rules

We teach children about Mutual Respect through:

- PSHE&C and SEAL curriculum and assemblies
- Jigsaw
- Positive relationships encouraged and modelled
- Inclusive ethos - Pay Forward - Be Kind
- RE curriculum
- Anti-Bullying assemblies
- School Council
- Sports Day
- Collaboration with other schools in the Trust and local Cluster
- Musical Extravaganza
- Trips - to the wider community including religious buildings - Eg. Church, Gurdwara.
- Visitors
- Peer assessment
- Golden Rules
- PE values
- Forest Schools Values