

Marlborough Primary School

Autumn 2014



Statement for the Promotion of British Values

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 Marlborough Primary these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

At Marlborough, each year the children decide upon their class charter of rules, rights and responsibilities. All the children contribute to the drawing up of these rules. Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard through regular cross phase 'Focus Groups' to discuss a variety of themes and issues.

We have a school council which is elected by the class through a system of anonymized manifestos being presented to the class. The class vote for the manifesto that they feel best promotes their needs, and those of the rest of the class, the school and the community. The School Council representatives meet regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council has its own budget and is able to genuinely effect change within the school.

The children are put into one of 3 'Houses' which take part of a variety of competitive events during the course of the year. Each 'House' votes for a Captain and Vice-Captain to represent their 'House'. The children are presented with badges during an assembly, and are asked if they are able to take on the responsibility of being a role model and leader for their 'House'.

Children, Parents and Staff have an annual questionnaire with which they are able to put forward their views about the school.

Through the curriculum children learn about a variety of 'Topics' regarding Britain, British culture and British history, including; Famous people and history linked to Plymouth: Sir Francis Drake and Buckland Abbey, Brunel and The Royal Bridge, The Mayflower Step and the voyage of The Pilgrim Fathers. They learn about the Second World War and develop their understanding of what living in a democracy means. For Remembrance Day each year, all the children take part in activities in class and during a whole school assembly looking at the role that Britain took in the First World War and the impact of war on individuals, communities, the country and the world. The children plant poppies in the school grounds and a 2 minute silence is observed on Armistice Day. In KS2 children learn about the Anglo Saxons and when they settled in Britain. They undertake a British Study focusing on rules and government, changing power and the monarchy and significant turning points in British history.

Annually, we mark the different Saints Days of the UK to enhance children's geographical, historical and cultural knowledge, and celebrate a range of 'national' and 'international' events: The wedding of William & Kate; the Golden Jubilee; the Olympics 2012, and ensure the children have an understanding of the historical significance of such events.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

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 PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

As a Rights Respecting School, 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. We take part annually in the Plymouth Respect Festival and work closely with Plymouth City Council's Equality and Diversity Team to promote respect for difference. Through our many 'Focus' group meetings, we discuss the issues surrounding 'Bullying' during the annual Anti-bullying Week. We take part in a wide range of 'themed' days to promote children's awareness of the need to support people in challenging circumstances.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Marlborough is situated in an area which is not greatly culturally diverse, therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce 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.

At Marlborough we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

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