



Bilston Church of England Junior

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British Values

The Department for Education has recently emphasised the important role that British values can play in education and 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 were reiterated in 2014. At Bilston C of E Junior School, British values are promoted in much of what we do, during school assemblies and Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) sessions. We also teach British values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. As a Church of England school the Christian values we promote are integral to our vision and ethos and underpin all of our work on British values.

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.

Below are just a few examples of how we promote British values. The first section is a general overview; the others are specific expectations set out by Ofsted.

Being Part of Britain

As a school we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of the local community. 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 Christmas service; Easter, and so on. We also value and celebrate national events such as royal celebrations, elections and others such as the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One.

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Bilston C of E Junior School. Democracy is central to how we operate.

An obvious example is our structure of the Junior Leadership Team. Each class elects one class representative, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy

in action. Interested children write their own speeches persuading others in their class to vote for them. Children are elected fairly and pupils are able to consider characteristics important for an elected representative. Pupils vote in secret. The school council regularly meets with the Head Teacher to discuss issues raised by class members. In addition, children in year 6 stand to be elected as House Captains. This involves presenting their manifestos to the whole school and each child in the school then has the chance to vote for their preferred choice.

Pupils have been actively involved in staff recruitment. The JLT also work hard to raise money and regularly discuss how to spend its funds.

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress; attending parents evening and SEND Annual Reviews/Target Reviews. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility, and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

The opinions of pupils and parents are gathered through questionnaires completed twice a year, and via surveys completed on specific issues such as school meals. There are also opportunities to comment on Parent view, via a link on our school website.

We actively teach children about their rights and responsibilities as British citizens, both on a national level and also a global level. Learning through the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) supports the development of national and global citizenship; this is underpinned by school assemblies that often look at issues surrounding human rights across the globe.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in campaigns to raise money for others, including the recent work going on around 'Toilet Twinning'. This is a joint fundraising campaign with St Mark's church.

We have a Parent Partnership Forum in school which is a termly meeting where parent representatives from each class (across the school) meet termly with the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and Home/School Support worker. The group discuss any general concerns parents might have about school life i.e. road safety around school, parent's evenings and how they run, homework etc. It is also used as a consultation process whereby staff can share new ideas and details of possible changes in school with parents who can then feed the information back to their particular parent group and gain feedback which is reported at the next meeting. We also have a wonderful PTA who raises valuable funds for the good of all in the school. They have so far funded new benches, trim trail and paid for astro-turf.

Rules and Laws

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year each class discusses the school rules and class routines, principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. All classes make a 'class charter' together.

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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- During Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules

To encourage and promote good behaviour, attitude and work, we have devised a reward system which is consistently followed throughout the school. We are committed to praising children's efforts. We endeavour to praise the children informally, individually, during group work, in front of the whole class and the whole school.

Children are rewarded not only for achievement in curriculum areas, but also for behaviour and general adherence to the school or class rules. Rewards are given in the form of stickers, praise pads or certificates. The achievements of children (and staff) are recognised during our weekly achievement assemblies.

Our JLT have recently worked with the Head Teacher to produce our school 'Golden Guidelines' which are ideas for how to make playtimes more enjoyable for all in a safe way. These posters are displayed around school.

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely. For example:

- Choices about what learning challenge or activity they will complete
- Choices about which ideas they vote for in class council
- Choice regarding the school lunch menu

- Choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our e-safety and PSHE lessons. They also understand that with rights come responsibilities. We also teach The Taking Care Programme annually. Children from this year, onwards, are also going to be able to take part in a new Sex and Relationships programme called 'Spring Fever'. The teaching and learning in this area enables our children to develop into individuals who:

- Respect both themselves and others
- Are aware of other people's feelings, wishes, opinions and capabilities
- Can increasingly make better decisions in the area of relationship and sexual health

Mutual respect

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy are based around core values such as resilience (with a particular focus on developing a "growth mindset"), respect and responsibility, and these values determine how we live as a community at Bilton C of E Junior School. All members of the school community treat each other with respect irrespective of their race, faith, gender or disability.

To support children in developing a 'growth mindset' we are now validated as a Children's University Learning Destination. This means we are actively working with our pupils and outside establishments to encourage children to be curious about learning something new outside of school hours. Children's University aims to support children in increasing their aspirations and enforcing a belief that through learning anything is possible.

Assemblies are based on "Values for Life" and are central to how we expect everyone to go about their life at our school. The assemblies celebrate differences and other cultures and help to build understanding of different people and their belief systems that may hold both similarities and differences to our own. Our values are highly visible around the school.

Children and adults alike are challenged if they are disrespectful in any way. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others.

Children are encouraged to show mutual respect for the natural world around them, especially with the support of our gardening and allotment club.

Children are taught about how to develop respectful relationships in a wide variety of ways including through our PSHE curriculum. We also promote mutual respect in the online world as set out in our E-safety and Acceptable Use policy that is seen and signed by all stakeholders.

Our school uses the Bucket Filler theme to encourage children to share their appreciation of each other. When a child or adult in school experiences or observes a positive act they can complete a 'Bucket Filler' slip and place it in their class bucket. The slips are collected each week and handed to the named children to take home and share with their families. One slip recipient from each class bucket also receives a 'Bucket Filler' certificate in our weekly commendation assembly.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Bilton C of E Junior is an excellent Church of England school. We are proud to promote and celebrate different backgrounds and beliefs with our mission to be "inclusive of all faiths and none". Tolerance, politeness and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims and ethos.

Our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. This will be particularly necessary in a future where technological advances will make the "world a smaller place".

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences we may have. Specific examples of how we at BJS enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- Through Religious Education, PSHE and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures including visiting places of worship that are important to different faiths
- In English through fiction
- In art and music by considering cultures from other parts of the world
- Across the curriculum; we learn through the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) which promotes and engenders global citizenship, enabling children to learn about similarities and differences across the world. Pupils are provided with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view in English, history, geography, PSHE, digital literacy, etc.
- Celebrating cultural differences through assemblies, themed weeks, noticeboards and displays.

Whilst instances contrary to our values are relatively 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.