

Promoting British Values at West Bridgford Junior School

(updated Summer 2023)

At West Bridgford Junior School we teach a themed curriculum which links with the National curriculum. It also incorporates the interests of pupils and supports them in becoming good local, national and global citizens of the future.

The Department for Education states that there is a 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”.

Our school aims to reflect these British values in all that we do. We nurture our pupils on their journey through life so they grow in to caring, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the wider world. We encourage them to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and others in our school, our local community and beyond.

At WBJs the British values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Pupils are encouraged to debate topics of interest, express their views and make a meaningful contribution to the running of the school. Democracy underpins a lot of the work we undertake with our children. Pupil voice is a crucial part of our ethos and we are proud to ensure ALL children's voices are heard. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, Rushcliffe Pupil Parliament (RPP), contributions to interviewing new staff and pupil questionnaires. Elections for School Council representatives are undertaken in each class and representatives are chosen from the School Council to represent WBJs at the Rushcliffe Pupil Parliament. Children are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where children are safe to disagree with each other. Our curriculum studies democracy within certain year groups.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are reinforced throughout our curriculum, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. The school's behaviour philosophy has at its core the principle of making the correct choices in life and our behaviour policy is founded on the key value of making the right choice and understanding the impact if the wrong choice is made. Our 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, Fire Service etc. are part of our normal calendar and 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 the 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 curriculum. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record work, or of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect:

Running through the heart of our school philosophy and vision is respect. This is consistently and frequently discussed with the children through circle time, assemblies, class and school councils. Our behaviour philosophy is based around ensuring all children respect one another and can value everyone as individuals. This is reiterated through our school values, whole school rules, learning champions, class charters and our whole school motto "TEAM" (Together Everyone Achieves More). Our inclusive ethos and work to support local and national charities promotes understanding and respect for different groups in society.

Acceptance of Difference:

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally and religiously diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

To be reviewed: Summer Term 2024