



Promoting British Values at Highwood Primary School



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 by the Prime Minister this year. At Highwood these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

- **Democracy:**

Democratic values underpin the ethos of the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Councils (Upper School Council Y6, Y5 and Y4 and Lower School Council Y3, Y2 and Y1) and via the listening culture where all adults listen to children and value their views. The elections of School Councillors and House Captains are based solely on pupil votes. Pupils' views are sought on a range of issues e.g. In Key Stage Two the pupils suggest and vote on activities to be offered in Golden Time. Our school behaviour policy includes rewards which the pupils can vote on as a class group.

- **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 the school day, 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. The ethos of the school is underpinned by four rules which all pupils and staff are expected to abide. These are:

- Be polite, kind and respect everybody
- Care for yourself, each other, your belongings and your school
- Walk around the school quietly
- Always try your best to learn and allow the teachers to teach

Each class also has an agreed class charter which is a set of guidelines for the class to follow.

- **Individual Liberty:**

At Highwood, 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 of provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of 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:**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Our school rules and aims promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy.

- **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and different forms of 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. Our highly successful 'Asian Week' in April 2014 was a celebration of our varied community achieved through close partnership with our parent body.