Our British Values (PG 17, WS)

Our promotion of British Values at West Hill Park including EYFS

Background

The government set out their definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, which was further updated in 2023. These new regulations will sit alongside the requirements of the Equalities Act, which also applies to all types of school.

Schools are expected to focus on, and be able to show, how our work with pupils is effective in embedding fundamental British values.

Promoting British values at West Hill Park School

We agree with the Department for Education's five-part definition of British values:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

West Hill Park pupils will encounter these principles throughout everyday school life. In particular, our promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding has been reviewed and enhanced by these explicit values.

Listed below are some examples of how we promote these values in our school community:

Democracy

Pupil voice is significant in regards to life at West Hill Park. Our pupil-elected school council plays a strong role in our school. They are elected by their class peers and are involved in making West Hill Park a better place to learn. Pupils have a great amount of input in regards to what and how they learn, which promotes pupil voice. For example, the pupils suggest/discuss with the teacher how they would like to learn certain skills in subjects and this is used to inform the teacher's planning.

Pupil questionnaires and interviews are also conducted throughout the year. We know that the formation of the school council and the active participation of our pupils will sow the

seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.

The Rule of Law

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to.

This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies, House meetings, form times and our curriculum. The involvement of our pupils in the creation of the school rules helps them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, war veterans, the fire brigade and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.

Individual Liberty

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. In lessons, learning tasks are often left for the child to decide upon. We encourage children to choose the task that will challenge them, giving them more freedom to determine their own learning. We offer a range of clubs and activities which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. Through our E-Safety programme and form time, we educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely. We believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will foster their sense of/respect for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. Pupils learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the school and in the classrooms.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At West Hill Park, we offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected. We strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.