



In June 2014, Prime Minister David Cameron emphasised the important role that British values can play in education and how well a school promotes such values is now an aspect of Ofsted's inspection process.

Although this has raised the profile of this aspect of school life, it is not something new to our school. British values are promoted in much of what we do, particularly in our school assemblies, Religious Education and PSHE work.

'British values' are also integral to many countries throughout the world - they do not differ significantly from those of most western European countries, for example. As well as actively promoting British values, we challenge any pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views of any type.

Below are some 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

We value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Tweeddale Primary School and how these are part of being British. We celebrate



traditions and customs in the course of the year, including a Harvest festival in the Autumn term and a visiting pantomime troop and Christingle Services before Christmas.

Our topic-led curriculum explicitly teaches children about British Values. In conjunction with the Vocabulary strand of the English National Curriculum, the school's 'Word of the Week' extends children's vocabulary to include words that promote British Values. We have recently learned about 'diversity', 'justice', 'mercy' and 'empathy'.

Specific topics in our curriculum also celebrate our British cultural heritage and the values that surround them. Specifically, children learn about British writers from William Shakespeare to Benjamin Zephaniah and JK Rowling, they focus on our local area of London, learn about British festivals such as Bonfire Night and Harvest, and learn from literary influences such as Mary Poppins.

### Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Tweeddale Primary School.

The election of School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider

characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret using ballot boxes etc. Made up of two representatives from each class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. This year, the School Council has decided on our Red Nose Day fund-raising activities. Pupils also agree their Class Rules and the rights and responsibilities that come from this.

In assemblies, children have learned that democracy in our school council reflects the fair processes and having opinions heard as the British Government. They know that laws and rules reflect the rules we have at school to keep us safe. The children also know that we can learn more about religion and faith from each other as a community in Britain and Tweeddale, as well as in RE lessons. They know about mutual respect for people who are different from themselves. They have learned about freedom in terms of being able to have a valid opinion as well as having the freedom to make choices about their learning and their behaviour.

Pupils are listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take an active part in school life and to take ownership of their own learning and progress. Parents are encouraged to stand as Governors and to contribute to Ofsted's Parent View. The great majority of parents responded to a recent parents' questionnaire.

## 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 and sets its own Class Rules, a set of 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. 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 - in sports lessons, for example



- visits to the school by people actively engaged in the democratic process, such as the Mayor of Sutton and the M.P. for Carshalton, or by those exemplifying British Values, such as Hannah Beharry's visit as part of the 'Be

The Best You Can Be' project: <http://www.mayorsfundforlondon.org.uk/best-can-london/>  
Taking part in 'Be the Best You Can Be' also promotes values based on Olympic and Paralympic Values, and we have embraced this and taken it further to support British Values in our 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 and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely, for example, their choices about 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.

## Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

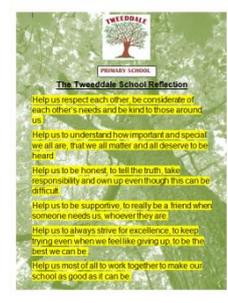
Our pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have, and to everything, whether it is a school resource, a religious belief or whatever. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect.

Examples of how we at Tweeddale Primary School enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- through Religious Education, PSHE and other lessons where we might develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures - in English through fiction and in Art by considering culture from other parts of the world
- enjoying a depth of study during Themed Days/Weeks, where we celebrate and enjoy learning about the differences in countries and cultures around the world

At the end of our school assemblies, we all repeat our School Reflection:

Fundraising events, for example, the Poppy collection for the British Legion, or Red Nose Day for Comic Relief, are also used as an opportunity to understand the work of the organisations and the issues behind their work.



Although no school can guarantee that there will never be instances which are contrary to the values described above, at Tweeddale Primary School such instances are extremely rare.