

British Values at How Wood School

At How Wood Primary School, we value the ethnic backgrounds of all pupils and families and we teach tolerance and respect for the differences in our community and the wider world. We believe and teach that this diversity makes a positive contribution to our school and to wider society. Underpinning these beliefs and values, our curriculum has strong links to Britain, both past and present. Our school promotes and believes in the British characteristics of democracy, the rule of law, mutual respect and the tolerance of all faiths and beliefs.

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. At How Wood School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is richly embedded within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, pupil questionnaires and interviews with a range of different members of staff. Learning walks with pupils allow pupil voice to be heard and to influence decision making and improvements to the school and the curriculum. Through pupil voice and choice we consult with our children to ask them what types of clubs they would like to see the school run. Our school behaviour policy involves rewards and sanctions; this is shared through all aspects of school life and through our Home School Agreement, Code of Conduct and school motto. This information is shared with parents, carers and children from Nursery through to Year 6.

As part of election of School Councillors, children learn about democracy. In Key Stage 2 prospective School Councillors share why they feel they would be a suitable candidate. Members of the class then vote for whom they believe will represent the class and their views best. School Councillors meet regularly, to discuss ideas put forward by their classes and how they can help to improve the school further and this information is fed-back to their peers. The School Council have visited the Houses of Parliament and have met the Mayor of St Albans. In previous years the Mayor has been invited to school to share her work and children have been invited to visit her in her chambers.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of rules, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced regularly: when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences and dangers when rules are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police (including the PSCO) and the Fire Service are a part of our calendar.

Moreover, as part of PSHE, each class creates a set of class rules; emphasis is given on the importance of rules in the classroom to explain what would happen if these rules and laws did not exist. Children are reminded of their role of being a good citizen outside of school so that they abide by the laws in the community and beyond.

During PE sessions, extra-curricular sports clubs as well as sporting tournaments, pupils are encouraged to demonstrate fair sportsmanship; they are taught the importance of needing rules within sport which in turn, helps them play fairly. We explicitly teach sessions on road safety, bike-ability and e-safety so that children are aware of the laws that govern us outside of the school. Visitors to the school have covered themes of rail safety and stranger danger as another way to share rules and laws that govern society.

Mutual Respect:

Mutual respect is an integral feature of school life. Our first core value on the How Wood Code of Conduct, outlines the principle of respect for each other at all times. Respect is a key theme running through assemblies and discussions and is frequently referred to. Pupils are actively involved in discussions about what this means and how it is shown, furthermore it is taught explicitly within lessons.

Adults throughout the school model, demonstrate and promote respect for others. Having respect for each other is a non-negotiable expectation of all pupils from Nursery through to Year 6. The values of respect are reiterated through our classroom rules and the behaviour policy.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

At How Wood School we celebrate the culturally rich and diverse society that makes up Britain; when possible we provide children with the opportunities to learn from each other by sharing and celebrating their different faiths and cultures. Assemblies and other sessions about prejudices and discrimination are discussed regularly, they are further addressed through RE and PSHE lessons. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. We actively encourage and invite pupils and staff members to share their own experiences of their faith and culture during lessons.

In RE, pupils learn about the different religions that exist within British society and they compare the similarities and differences between them. Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism and Hinduism are all covered. Pupils are aware that all these religions are practiced in Britain and they learn about these, upholding respect for the beliefs of each religion. We invite visitors into assemblies and lessons from different faith groups.

Curriculum areas and themes:

Our curriculum maps highlight links to British values.

Each half term the school organises a Curriculum Enrichment Day, themes which have been covered are;

- Black History Month; assemblies are held and lessons are taught about the impact that influential Black people have had on the way that we live today – within a respectful, multi-cultural and multi-ethnic, diverse but most importantly an equal society.
- Anti-Bullying Week; pupils are encouraged to know and understand their rights and responsibilities so that they can keep safe both in and outside of school online.
- Remembrance Day-is honored by the whole school in an assembly and a two minute silence is held by children and staff; pupils respect and recognise the loss of the lives of those who fought in the war from countries all over the world.