



Dedworth Middle School's British Values statement

The Department for Education state 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.” The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. At Dedworth Middle School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through a variety of ways including our School Council, Junior Leadership Team, Sports Leaders and Prefects. The elections of these bodies of pupils reflect systems that our British electoral system use and demonstrate democracy in action.

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 and our curriculum, and behaviour policy.

Through our RE and Choices (PSHE) lessons, we allow opportunity to debate and discuss the reasons for laws so that pupils can recognise the importance of these for their own protection. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, war veterans, the fire brigade etc. We believe that clear explanations and contextualised learning give emphasis to the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.

Individual liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their personal interests. We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that pupils are in a safe environment.

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and Choices (PSHE) lessons. We implement a strong anti-bullying culture.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life, and all members of the school community are respectful of each other. This is evident when walking around the School. We actively promote developing our core values; our 7 C's, which we believe contribute to individuals being able to live happy and successful lives within the communities to which they belong. Pupils learn that their behaviours have an affect on their own rights and those of others; to

underpin the need for mutual respect between our pupils and their peers, staff, their families and their wider community. Our core values are taught through assemblies and the curriculum forming a key part of our daily dialogue across school. Our school frequently participates in learning activities which promote mutual respect within the community such as visits to the care homes, local businesses and farms, as well as religious and historical buildings.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

We offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which major religions are studied and respected. We strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through both our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life we strive to demonstrate tolerance, helping students to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better society for the future. Pupils visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share to their knowledge to enhance learning within the school.