

British Values

The Department for Education identifies that schools have a duty to actively 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 'Prevent' strategy in 2011. At Rushcombe First School, these values are promoted and reinforced in the following ways:

Democracy

Rights and responsibilities are discussed regularly as part of the school's PSHE provision, including through assemblies and class circle time sessions. Each year, the children reflect upon the whole school Behaviour Code, including the rights and responsibilities associated with this.

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. The school's curriculum incorporates the ideas and interests of the children within the planning process. As each Learning Adventure progresses, the children's questions and ideas are elicited on an ongoing basis, and these are incorporated within the teacher's weekly planning. The use of Philosophy sessions also help to reinforce democratic practices through the establishment of a 'community of enquiry', which enables children to explore philosophical concepts (including moral and political) through shared dialogue.

We hold regular Time to Talk meetings, which enable children to voice their opinions and to effect change within the school community. All children at Rushcombe First School participate in our Time to Talk meetings. This enables every child to contribute to school development and to recognise that their voice is valued. Cross phase meetings are held across the school, with representation from each year group. A smaller representative group of children will collate the views of each cross phase council, before providing feedback to the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Curriculum Leader (PSHE).

Children have regular questionnaires with which they are able to put forward ideas about the school.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are reinforced regularly through assemblies and PSHE, philosophy and circle time sessions. 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

The provision of equal opportunities is central to the ethos of the school, ensuring that all children are treated fairly. The school's values based assemblies explore the meaning of concepts such as equality, fairness and tolerance. Equality is also reinforced through the Time to Talk meetings (which enables all children to contribute to school development) and through the behaviour code, which is applied fairly to all children. Exploration of equality also reinforces the children's understanding of rights and responsibilities.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. The school's curriculum incorporates children's ideas and questions within the planning process, enabling children to pursue lines of enquiry that are of particular interest to them. Children are encouraged to make decisions about how they record their learning and are provided with regular opportunities to plan their own learning activities during TED (Time to Explore and Discover) sessions. A range of extra-curricular clubs and opportunities are also available for children to choose from.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of the school's ethos, values and behaviour code. Through assemblies, PSHE and circle time sessions, children are provided with regular opportunities to explore the importance of showing respect to others. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. Respectful behaviour is promoted through the school's Learning Heroes (Thoughtful Theo) and through the school's behaviour code. Examples of respectful behaviour are identified and celebrated through the school's reward system. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The Rushcombe curriculum provides opportunities for children to explore a range of faiths, beliefs and cultures. This is delivered through direct teaching about different faiths during RE sessions and through a rich range of cultural experiences and learning opportunities delivered through the broader curriculum. We aim for children to develop their understanding of faiths and cultures other than their own and to develop values such as tolerance and respect for diversity. Members of different cultures, faiths or religions are regularly invited to contribute to the school's curriculum.