



Otterburn Primary School

British Values

2022 - 2023

British Values at Otterburn Primary School

At Otterburn Primary School we fully recognise our responsibility to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain by promoting and teaching pupils about 'British Values', which the government defines as:

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

The values listed above are taught explicitly through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE), Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Education (SMSC) and Religious Education (RE). Finally and fundamentally, preparation for life in modern Britain is underpinned through careful planning and delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.

Otterburn Primary School takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through our daily assemblies/collective acts of worship and through our whole school systems and structures. Every month we focus on a different value. These include: Respect, Courage, Responsibility, Resilience, Communication, Diversity, Democracy, Emotions, Aspirations and Collaboration.

Otterburn Primary School is committed to challenging pupils, staff or parents/carers expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' view

At Otterburn Primary School, 'British Values' are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy – Democracy is an important value at our school. Each year begins with a democratic process where each class can nominate representatives for Pupil Parliament. Children are encouraged to see the link with the real world and to know about the main political parties and how Government works.

Once the Pupil Parliament is established, they meet at least half termly with an agreed agenda. The Parliament put out an agenda for all classes to discuss and each class representative then brings the views of the class back to the meeting. Minutes are displayed on the Pupil Parliament Notice Board and shared in assembly time or in class.

Any pupil or member of staff can bring an item to be placed on the agenda for discussion but the key focus areas are school priorities, supporting charities and school development.

As children progress through school, they also have the opportunity to nominate themselves to be a House Representative or a member of the Sports Crew, this process is through election.

Rule of Law – At Otterburn, the importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day.

At the start of every school year we focus on citizenship, school rules and behaviour expectations. We have a value of the month and children are recognised for demonstrating these values on our Blossom Tree. All of the children are expected to sign and adhere to the Home/School Agreement to remind them about what is expected from them, including how we must behave in school. Children are given time to consider the part that we all play in society. They learn about their rights and also their responsibilities and how our

actions have consequences that can affect those around them. Visits from authorities such as the road safety team, etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

Assembly sets the tone for the day in terms of our high expectations and, over the year, children work towards Star of the week awards for exceptional work and behaviour over a period of time. Blossoms, Leaves and House Points also reward children for following the school rules and expectations.

Individual Liberty – Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices at our school, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety teaching and PSHE lessons. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, e.g. signing up for extra-curricular clubs, choose the level of challenge in some lessons and are becoming increasingly more involved in child-led learning, e.g. through our enquiry based thematic curriculum and planning/ delivering child led assemblies and learning reflection activities.

Mutual Respect –Our school ethos and behaviour policy are based around RESPECT - Resilience, Empathy, Self- Awareness, Positivity, Excellence, Communication and Team work and these values determine how we live as a community at Otterburn Primary School.

Children and adults alike, including visitors, are challenged if they are disrespectful in any way. Values are highly visible around the school and can be seen in posters, certificates and as part of our Home/School Agreement.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths & Beliefs – Children need to learn how to show respect for others and understand that difference is not only acceptable, but welcome. Children know that everyone is welcome in our school. Daily assembly and work in class ensure that this message is constantly reinforced.

We have strong links with St. John’s Church in the village. Reverend Claire visits school to lead assembly and to teach about Christian values and ideas. Children also have the opportunity to visit St. John’s to see the workings of a Christian Church.

Each term when appropriate we hold assemblies based around different cultures, faiths and beliefs.

Assemblies involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are followed up by learning in RE and PSHE.

Any concerns raised about lack of tolerance or respect for others on school premises, are followed up stringently.

We use opportunities such as the Olympics and the World Cup to study and learn about life and culture in other countries.

Development of Skills & Attitudes to Contribute Positively to Life in Modern Britain

Children are encouraged to look after the school building and contents and to see the link between finance and material possessions. They follow the school rules, which are displayed in every classroom and referred to daily.

Each class representative feeds class views into Pupil Parliament about any matters arising in school that children wish to address and children understand that this is a democratic process.

Children learn about key figures in history, who have contributed to positive changes to society and consider how they can emulate these ideas. Children have many opportunities for learning about Great Britain and the wider world around us.

Older children are encouraged to support younger children at key times such as assemblies and lunch times. They are also encouraged to volunteer in the community when possible e.g. singing at events for elderly and community members.

Children learn about careers right from starting in nursery and they benefit from visitors speaking to them about career prospects for the future.

All children are aware of individual targets that they have and work towards these with an evaluative attitude.

A variety of extra-curricular activities are available to promote a positive mental attitude and team spirit. Children learn about healthy competition and how working together can make us stronger.

Cultural Influences

We have planned our curriculum carefully to include study about our local heritage. Children visit the local area and further afield to experience the diversity in cultural influences. We choose texts carefully to show a range of cultural diversities.

The children learn about their Northumbrian heritage through song and art and attending local shows and festivals.

The children know that we live in the rural corner of North East England and know about various places both in land and at the coast. The older children take part in a residential activity at the coast to visit key sites relating to our cultural history such as Alnwick Castle.

Children also learn about the world wars and commemorate November 11th each year in lots of different ways. Representatives from the school and Pupil Parliament attend the Remembrance Service alongside the local community in the church and village hall to lay a wreath. Children learn about Remembrance in school. We learn about world wars, e.g. by making poppies, watching clips, carrying out research, singing and reading poetry.

Artistic, Sporting & Cultural Opportunities

Each class makes visits out of school to local places of interest, often with artistic historical, or cultural significance. e.g. children enjoy visits to Wallington Hall, art galleries and sporting venues.

We aim to provide a broad balanced and progressive Art Curriculum which is integrated into other areas of the curriculum. The school's aim is to enable each child to reach their full potential in Art, through investigating and making, research and the development of skills and through the evaluation of their own artwork and that made by others. We aim to ensure that all pupils know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Children are encouraged to take an active role in the life of school. All children are encouraged to join the choir, take music lessons and join in with performances.

Mr MacMillan leads PE & School Sport and all children take part in competitive and non-competitive games each year across a variety of sports. Children also become Sports Leaders and play an active part in supporting others.

Mrs Waddington is our RE leader. RE is taught throughout the school and follows the Northumberland Agreed Syllabus for RE. The overall aim of the subject is to enable pupils to develop respect for different beliefs whilst providing them with the opportunities to develop and discover their own personal values. The curriculum reflects the fact that the UK is a multi-cultural society with Christianity as its main religion. The teaching of RE is both creative and varied. Approaches include food tasting, drama, visiting the local Church, exploring festivals through art, re-telling important stories and considering personal beliefs.

All teachers plan a range of artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities across the year so that learning in all areas is enriched.

Review Date: September 2023