

How we Promote British Values at Acre Heads

At Acre Heads Primary School, we understand the importance of encouraging pupils to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance. We provide an environment to allow pupils to understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law. Through our school ethos and teaching, we emphasise the importance of supporting the rule of English civil and criminal law.

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy to which Acre Heads is committed. Staff are trained and understand this strategy. As a school we promote the four fundamental British values as set out for all schools:

These are:

1. Democracy
2. The rule of law
3. Individual liberty
4. Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We take every opportunity to promote and explore these values in a meaningful way. These values lend themselves to being discussed and explored across the curriculum and school ethos and they are reinforced in all we do and say:

(NB for the purposes of clear explanation, these four values have been split into five)

1. Democracy

- Children have many opportunities for their opinions and voices to be heard. We have an active school council which meets regularly to discuss any issues raised by children, parents, staff or Governors. They are consulted on changes or reviews to existing practice.
- Council members for each year group are voted in by their class for council membership and eco-committee membership.
- Children hold debates within school lessons on various issues which affect their school life and their futures.
- An intelligent vote is demonstrated by the staff during the Head Girl and Boy election every term. The whole school hear the reasons staff give for choosing the Head Girl and Boy. They are reminded that it is the behaviour exhibited by the candidates that helps the electorate make up their minds.
- Voting is often used for decisions across the school and within classes. The school values themselves were chosen through voting done by parents and children. Three possible rewards which are part of the behaviour management system were also voted on by the children. Children choose from this list for themselves.

2. The Rule of Law

- The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies.
- Children 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, Fire Service and Bus wise personnel help reinforce this message.
- Cross curricular work is often a good opportunity to learn about a particular law, E.g. in Upper KS2 the children study a topic on crime and punishment.
- As part of the Investors in Pupils award, each year the children invest time and thought into the rules that their class abides to and consider consequences and rewards for keeping these rules.
- Rules around behaviour are discussed with children in classes and assemblies and are embedded in the Smiler Bear reward system.

- The children exhibit excellent behaviour and respect in school. Each class has a value that they champion and together with the other classes, the values make up the 'rules' to follow. We choose to make these positive aspirations rather than punitive rules.
- 3. Individual Liberty**
- Within school, Children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.
 - As a school we educate and provide boundaries for children to make choices, understanding that there are consequences to every action and we must take responsibility for our own actions.
 - Children 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.
 - Assemblies are planned to reinforce understanding of equality, diversity, liberty, rights, social and emotional learning, caring and tolerance. Visitors, RE and PSHE lessons support this work.
 - We make use of our local heritage in teaching children about William Wilberforce and the abolition of the slave trade as well as pioneering women such as Amy Johnson.
 - Our Remembrance assemblies are focussed on the true sacrifice for freedom and celebrated as a whole school special occasion. The permanent poppy memorial sign is a lasting reminder of this for our children.
 - Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, of how they record their learning, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, children are given the freedom to make choices based on their own interests and needs.
 - Through PSHE, Sex education, E-safety and RE lessons, children learn that they have rights to exercise with a view to keeping themselves safe and fulfilled.
- 4. Mutual Respect**
- Mutual respect for all is at the heart of our values and behaviour management. We teach the children above all to 'be nice' and 'do the right thing.'
 - No forms of bullying or harassment are tolerated and if we know about it, we deal with it in a restorative way in order to teach the children how to show and gain respect to / from others.
 - Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others.
 - All members of the school community treat each other with respect – we always refer behaviour to how it makes each party feel.
- 5. Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**
- Although our school is situated in an area which is not greatly culturally diverse, we place a great emphasis on promoting tolerance of diversity with the children by teaching them that Hull is a growing community of cultural diversity with both similarities and differences that are fascinating to study and celebrate.
 - Assemblies and lessons are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of key world faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforces this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school – e.g. through our 'speed dating' multi-faith sharing event, Chinese New Year and Diwali celebrations.
 - Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.
 - At Acre Heads children demonstrate understanding and respect for other faiths when for example, they accept that our children from Jehovah's Witness families do not celebrate Christian festivals. They have also listened with interest to Muslim children talking about their family celebrations.
 - We will actively challenge Children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' and discriminatory views.
 - We also actively promote fundamental British values through ensuring Children' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development for example by asking questions, debating and discussing other faiths and cultures.
 - We have supported schools in Africa by sending them some of our reading books; we have raised money for charities such as Children In Need and WaterAid.

- Mega Days and enhancement activities such as Year 2's annual India Day, Mega Music Day, European Week, Rockin in Rio and Ancient Mayan topics help children to respect and understand the value of faiths other than their own. They are helped to understand that we all have the right to choose and practise our own beliefs without criticism.

Impact of our promotion of British Values

We believe that our school community demonstrates these values excellently because we have had no record of any intolerant incidents of any kind in the last five years. We do, however, have many examples of kindness, understanding and courtesy shown every day.

We also have Parent Opinion Poll questionnaire answers which prove that parents are behind and supportive of the British Values:

23/09/16

We asked the parents and carers:

“At school we have a duty to educate the children about the ‘British Values’ of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. As a parent how do you feel about this?”

- “ We feel it important to learn and respect another’s ways.
- “ At as parent this is something we encourage at home and if the school also supports these values and teaches them – great!
- “ I’m in favour of this – I think children will benefit as individuals and will be useful in everyday life.
- “ I think and agree that all children should be taught this way.
- “ 100% agree, think it’s very important.
- “ I personally think it’s a good idea.
- “ I think our children need to be taught how to accept and love others in spite of any differences they may have.
- “ I feel this is more necessary than ever given the current climate and growing ignorance / miseducation towards the Muslim faith. More so, as an individual I wish I have been encouraged to love my country, the values we hold particularly when supporting other countries facing war etc.
- “ We both feel this is very good. To teach British values should be at the heart of any British school.
- “ Fully agree with above statement.
- “ I feel this is vital and my son should learn all about these topics.
- “ Quite happy, we feel this is important for children to understand and help them embrace diversity as they grow up.
- “ Yes I feel that this is very important. It’s better for children to learn about these things as early as possible then they can accept and understand different cultures and beliefs.

- “ Definitely needs to be taught as I’m not sure everyone realises those are our values, especially after listening to the news these days.
- “ It’s good to be multi-cultural as this is the world we now live in. I want my girls to grow up treating everyone as equals.
- “ I think all of the above is an important part of a child’s education.
- “ I wholeheartedly agree with this, would much rather my children learned about differing faiths and beliefs rather than Christianity being ‘the faith.’ My children are free to follow a religion should they choose to when they are able to choose which religion fits their beliefs and values.
- “ **I can see evidence of children at Acre Heads demonstrating and living these values every day!**
- “ It’s good practice to educate children to respect others’ beliefs.
- “ This is a great start in life. Every life should have respect; hopefully the future generation will bring peace and harmony.
- “ Very happy indeed. I feel it is hugely important for our children to be taught and shown these values in a world which is increasingly forgetting them.
- “ Very important! I want my child to grow up tolerant and knowledgeable about other faiths and beliefs.
- “ Wholeheartedly support this and I think generally as a school, you already do this.
- “ Children need to be educated about what the world is like as long as it’s on a level they understand.
- “ I think it’s great for children to learn all about other’s faiths and beliefs so that they can be more tolerant.
- “ My child has been telling us about a particular faith / belief of someone in her class.