



BRITISH VALUES AT EAST FARLEIGH SCHOOL

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, and these values have been reinforced recently. At East Farleigh we promote these values in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is common within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to express opinions through our School Council and Pupil questionnaires and class circle time. Elected peer mediators and play leaders support other pupils. The election of pupil representatives for events and meetings takes place. House teams are used to enhance healthy competition, which in turn reinforces appropriate turn taking and basic rules. Our school “Golden Rules” reinforce the importance of respect and opportunities to listen to others and even the winners of our annual talent competition are selected through a popular vote of all pupils.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of Law and rules, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, including assemblies, circle time and class and extra-curricular sessions. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind the laws and rules that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from local organisations such as the Police; Fire Service etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. The local magistrate service has been working with our older pupils to teach them the processes of the local justice system. In school we have school “Golden Rules” and assemblies and circle time support appropriate learning behaviors. Individual classes establish class rules at the beginning of each year and our school behavior policy involves rewards and sanctions.

Individual Liberty:

Within school, pupils 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 young pupils to make choices safely, through of provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. Children are given the opportunity to organise and participate in their own events and freedom to take part in residential trips and sporting competitions should they wish. Many pupils volunteer for additional tasks, events and responsibilities.

Mutual Respect:

Our school ethos revolves around “Golden Rules” such as ‘Respect’, and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules and assemblies. Our behavior policy reinforces expected behaviors. Suggestion and comment boxes are available in classes. The children are encouraged to take part both in school events and those organised throughout the wider community. Children have responsibilities for jobs around the school, showing around visitors and looking after younger pupils. The school takes part in a wide range of charitable events, both national, and local. Sports days, competitions and inter school events engender respect for others and reinforce common values. We hold an annual “Fair Trade” week.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving children opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions about faith and beliefs are supported by learning in RE and PSHE. We work to the Kent agreed RE syllabus. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Curriculum work across year groups is used to reinforce this message. Materials used in school support diversity. Our school choir has recently taken part in a multicultural performance in Canterbury Cathedral.