

Promoting British Values at Datchet St Mary's Academy

The Department for Education have said "***Keeping our children safe and ensuring schools prepare them for life in modern Britain could not be more important.***"

The DfE reinforced the need "***to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values.***"

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values were reiterated in 2014.

Schools are therefore required to actively promote and not undermine "British Values" The government has set out its definition of British Values as:

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

At Datchet St Mary's these values are reinforced regularly and promoted in the following ways:

As a Christian school we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils' character and moral perspective, through the teachings of the Church. We are confident that our continued focus on the Christian Values will give our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today, and embed in them the building blocks of a future successful and productive life.

Through our teaching in RE, PSHCe and curriculum topics we are able to make real links between the values of our pupils and the lives of others in their community, country and the world.

Through our Curriculum we teach the pupils about:

- democracy,
- civic responsibility,
- rules and laws,
- the monarchy,
- equality,
- values and virtues,
- environmental issues
- other faiths

We value the diversity and differences of all our pupils and celebrate this through our culture, ethos, approach to lessons and our respectful relationships we promote. Commitment and celebration of our diversity makes us collectively stronger, tolerant and respectful to all.

Democracy

Each year the pupils decide upon their classroom agreements and the rights and expectations associated with these; they all contribute to the drawing up of this agreement. The pupils also contribute towards their topics each term asking specific questions to be covered.

We have a Student Council led by the PSHCE subject leader whom meet regularly with the Head of School to discuss issues raised in their meetings, in class, within the school and Community. The Council is genuinely able to effect change within the school. Every pupil on the Student Council is voted in by their class.

During the year, pupils also complete questionnaires where they are able to put forward their views about the school. Each year the pupils vote for their House Captains and School Council Representatives.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Datchet St Mary's.

Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school which include Playground Rules and Safety Rules. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. There is a clear Behaviour Policy which is explained to all. There are also clear E-Safety rules for KS1 and KS2 to promote the correct use of the internet. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

At Datchet St Mary's, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make informed choices, within a safe and supportive environment and an empowering education. 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 PSHCe lessons. We teach the pupils about civil liberty and the Children's Rights Act and they are encouraged to understand the responsibilities that come with these rights. Children are actively encouraged to be independent in their learning. We support charitable works, chosen by the children.

Mutual Respect

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around our school values and pupils are constantly reminded about what this means in practice. This is reiterated through our classroom agreements, as well as our behaviour policy and collective worships. We foster an environment where differing views are respected and mutual respect is embraced through the curriculum from the concept of 'fair play' in PE to students supporting each other across different year groups and within the class.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge of culture and celebrations to enhance learning across the school.