

BRITISH VALUES

at

Braunstone Community
Primary 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 reiterated by the Prime Minister this year.

At Braunstone Community Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is rife within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil questionnaires. The elections of School Council Reps, UNICEF RRS Steering Committee Representatives and are based solely on the democratic process with children giving speeches and elections then occurring. The majority of policies are discussed widely and incorporate as many different stakeholders as possible to put policy into practice. We also have annual pupil questionnaires where they are able to put forward their views about the school, behaviour, teaching and learning. At Braunstone Community Primary, we listen to all of the views of the children, they debate issues taking both sides for and against, and the children express their views peacefully and wholeheartedly get involved. We have had links with our local politicians, with Liz Kendall MP visiting the school in March 2015 as a part of the NAHT’s Primary Futures programme. Children in our school have also been visited by local councillors. Parental voice is also extremely important and we continue to ask our parents what they feel about the running of Braunstone Community through regular questionnaires. Also, Governors’ voice is important and weekly meetings are held between the Chair of Governors and the Head Teacher to ensure everyone’s views and opinions are valued.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country are consistently reinforced at Braunstone Community Primary. This is undertaken through regular school PSHE lessons, as well as when discussing behaviour and through whole school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and fully understanding the consequences when laws are broken. We have strong links with our neighbourhood policing team. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce these issues. We also have received a visit from the local Police and Crime Commissioner as a part of our work with Pedestrian Arts to address Anti- Social Behaviour outside of school. Through our SMSC lessons, children also understand the laws of different religions and how to uphold and respect other people’s beliefs and laws governing how they should live. Through the UNICEF Rights Respecting School programme, pupils are involved in deciding class rules and charters linked to anti-bullying and SMSC outcomes which also have a direct link to the rules of our playground and safety. The children understand that they have rights but this also means that they have responsibilities too.

Individual Liberty:

At Braunstone Community Primary, 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 our pupils to make informed choices, 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 be 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 and to respect the decisions and choices of others. The children are responsible for their own behaviour, we challenge stereotypes and bias, we are an anti-bullying school, we promote self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence and we model freedom of speech in a peaceful manner. We believe that the children's informed choices empower their education.

Mutual Respect:

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy and curriculum has revolved around Core Values such as 'Relationships', 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, as well as our Behaviour Policy. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and encourage each other to be respectful and will challenge each other when respect has not been given. We have respect for our own and others' cultures and we discuss differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender and families.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

Braunstone Community is a diverse school. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religious are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children will visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. We also achieve this through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Through our RE curriculum, which teaches the main faiths and focuses upon learning about religion and learning from religion, we promote tolerance of the beliefs of others.

This position statement has been supported by material from the Department of Education November 2014 document 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools'.