

Promoting British Values at Monkshouse

The DfE 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 were reiterated in 2014. Promoting British Values and teaching children to respect each other's differences is a very important part of life at Monkshouse Primary School.

At Monkshouse Primary School we already promote the core aspects of British values through the SMSC work that is integrated throughout every year group. We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff and provide a model of behaviour for pupils. Through the ethos of the school and the systems in place British values are reinforced regularly and are evidenced in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy can be seen in action at our school in many ways. We have a school council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council sessions and has its own constitution, which the members sign. The school council, which is elected democratically, and includes at least 1 member from each class Y1 -Y6, provides the pupils with an opportunity to raise issues, decide how money is spent, organise events and activities and put forward suggestions for curriculum ideas. Through all areas of the curriculum the pupils are taught the importance of listening to others and their viewpoints, allowing the pupils to gain a full understanding of democracy. The establishment of our school behaviour policy, rights and responsibilities and our School Values involved the collecting of ideas and suggestions which the pupils voted on.

The school's House Captains are also voted for by their peers.

The Rule of Law

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Monkshouse Primary School. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules and values of the school, the reasons behind rules; that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when rules are broken. Children are involved in the establishing of the rules and the rights and responsibilities, which are reviewed annually.

Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. We have established Junior Community Police Officers and Junior Road Safety Officers to support the reinforcement of rules in school.

Individual Liberty

Making the right choices and being responsible for those are important principles at Monkshouse Primary School. All children receive equal opportunities and are encouraged to be independent in making the choice that is right for them. At Monkshouse Primary School, pupils

are actively encouraged to make informed 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 provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and we advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is one of our key values and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. This is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of our school community treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Cultures, Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. RE, PSHE lessons and assemblies reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge and enhance learning at the school. As part of our international school work we are making links with schools in areas such as the Lebanon.

British History

Through the study of British history pupils at our school are taught to understand the different periods of history in a chronological order. This takes place in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 with cross curricular topic work linked to the study of specific periods in British history which underpins the notions of our shared heritage, values and traditions. In addition the school commemorates historic events such as Armistice Day.

Commitment to charity work

Despite the school being placed in an area of relative social and economic deprivation the pupils are encouraged to participate in and support good causes and charities. This they are very keen to do and the parents are exceptionally supportive of any events organised eg collecting food for the community foodbank, buying goats and chickens for a village in Africa. These are just a couple of the range of events that are organised by the pupils which reinforce this value and the fact that there are large numbers of people, both at home and abroad who are less fortunate than ourselves and need our support.

All staff at Monkshouse Primary School work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that the pupils are happy, safe and reach their full potential to live fulfilled lives in the community.

