British Values at St Meryl School

The DfE have 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.

At St Meryl School British values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is actively taught and promoted in the school through the planned curriculum. Our school council and Eco Council members are democratically elected and meet regularly. They take a lead on developing aspects of our provision. Pupil voice exercises are an in integral part of our self-evaluation schedule. At the start of every new topic teachers ask the pupils what they would like to learn and what skills they feel they need to develop and this is incorporated into planning. Subject leaders and the Senior Leadership team ask pupils about their learning and about their concerns and ideas about how we can make things even better for them. We use ‘News and Views’ assemblies to gather feedback from pupils and suggestions for improvement.

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 the school every day. Pupils 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, the Fire Service and our local councillors feature in our curriculum and in assemblies. We teach the children about rules and the importance of them through assemblies and through the active promotion of our behaviour policy..

Individual Liberty:

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Our behaviour policy is built upon the principle that children are responsible for their own actions; that behaviour is a choice and that actions have consequences. Safeguarding is embedded in every aspect of life at school. Children learn how to keep themselves safe through RSHE, e-safety lessons and other curriculum areas.

We encourage children to make choices in terms of their learning-choosing their level of challenge, choosing how to present their work and choosing whether to work alone or with others. We always make sure though that children understand the impact of their choices upon others and the consequences of their actions.

Mutual Respect:

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils understand the importance of respect and are taught how to respect their own rights and those of others. Adults actively model respect with one another and with children. We teach children the meaning of respect and what this looks like in practice. We have 6 core values at St Meryl; each one the focus of assemblies and RSHE every half-term. One of these core values is respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

We are proud of the cultural diversity of our school. We teach children to be tolerant of different faiths and beliefs through the active promotion of them through the curriculum and through planned enrichment activities such as 'Diversity Week.' We actively seek and utilise the knowledge and experience that our parents bring to the school and they often lead assemblies for us and input to lessons.

We make good cross-curricular links in our planning and exploit opportunities to learn about other faiths and cultures in all subjects.

We make good use of assemblies to raise the issue of prejudice and bullying and this is reinforced and extended through the planned learning in other curricular areas. Children with English as an additional language make good progress at our school because their home languages are acknowledged and incorporated into the classroom and they are well-supported.

At St Meryl we understand it is our duty to actively challenge pupils, staff and parents expressing any opinions contrary to fundamental British values and any extremist views.