



British Values at Rothwell C of E Primary Academy

In June 2014, David Cameron emphasised the important role that British values can play in education. Although this is something which is developing for many schools, it is not something new at LEAF Academies. Indeed the cornerstones of LEAF (Love, Enterprise, Aspiration and Faith) are both Christian and British values.

At Rothwell C of E British values are promoted in much of what we do, including:

- School collective worship
- Planned activity days/weeks and including our work with D Side and Barnabas in Schools
- Targeted sessions and age appropriate curriculum topics
- Religious Education
- PSHCE
- Clubs and extra-curricular activities
- The work of school council and other pupil led activities including Leeds Citizens
- Our general positive and inclusive ethos

As well as actively promoting British values, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views and racial intolerance.

Being Part of Rothwell, Leeds and Britain and playing our part in the Global Community

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Rothwell C of E. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of our local community and Britain. This means that we celebrate traditions (e.g. Harvest Festival) and we also value and celebrate national events and support national charities. This year we have raised money for the Poppy Appeal, NSPCC, Macmillan, Save the Children, Samaritan's Purse and a local dementia support group. We actively work with community groups including Leeds Citizens and our Parish Council.

Children learn about being part of Britain from different curriculum topics for example:

Geography: where we ensure that children have a better understanding of what Britain is, learning more about its capital cities and counties, its rivers and mountains, where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world.

History: Britain and its influence in modern times are aspects woven into our thematic topics

Music; study of British composers and their influence world wide

Art: study of how British artist influence others

Literacy: study of our rich literary heritage

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Rothwell C of E. Democracy is central to how we operate. An obvious example is our Academy Council and Church Council. The election of the Academy Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates create manifestos, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, voting systems etc.

The councils are made up of representatives from each class. The Academy Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. In the past, the Council has requested additional after school music clubs and playtime buddy stops which have been implemented.

Other examples of 'pupil voice' are:

- Children agree their Class Rules at the start of term
- Pupils monitor and evaluate behaviour in school and feedback to classes
- Pupil surveys including PASS (Pupil Attitudes to Self and School)

Rules and Laws

The importance of rules and laws, whether they are those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often. At the start of the school year, each class discusses and sets its own class rules, a set of principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.

Our whole school rules are: To be Kind, To be Safe and To be our Best. Our pupils can demonstrate what this would look like in their daily actions,

These values are reinforced in other ways:

- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- During Religious Education, when we look at the implications of belief on daily lives
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in a sports lesson, for example
- Work with D Side (an educational charity supporting work around Internet Safety, Drug and Alcohol Use)

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely, for example:

- Choices about what learning challenge or activity to do
- Choices about how they record their learning
- Choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities
- Choices about lunchtime options

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our e-safety, drug, relationship and PSHCE lessons.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Rothwell C of E Primary Academy is in an area which serves a mainly white British population however this is changing and our percentage of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds has risen to nearly 10%. It is vital we prepare our pupils to exist in an area that is rapidly changing culturally. We are proud to promote and celebrate the different backgrounds and beliefs that our pupils are encountering on a daily basis. Mutual respect is implicit in our aims and ethos. Our pupils have been actively taught to challenge hate crimes through participation in the 'Show Racism the Red Card' project 2014-15.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have, and to everything, whether it is a school resource or a religious belief.

Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community should treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we enhance pupils understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are: through Religious Education and other lessons where we might develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures – in English through fiction and in Art by considering culture from other parts of the world. In addition pupils enjoy an in depth of study during current events linked topics, where sometimes we will celebrate and enjoy learning about the differences in countries and cultures around the world.

Sadly, no school can guarantee that there will never be instances which are contrary to these values. Such instances however, are rare and they are treated seriously.