




British Values at Rivermead

Since November 2014 all schools have been expected to actively promote the fundamental British values set out below.

				
Democracy	Rule of law	Individual liberty	Mutual respect	Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
We all have a voice within school and society.	We understand that rules and laws are there to keep everyone safe and happy and we respect them.	We know our human rights and responsibilities and are aware that we have freedom to make our own choices in life.	We respect others and expect them to show us respect.	We respect and appreciate diversity and understand that everybody has different views and beliefs.

At Rivermead Primary School, we develop and promote British Values throughout our school and within our curriculum.

“We want every school to promote the basic British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.” Lord Nash

A key part of our plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

British Values

- The Rule of Law
- Democracy
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs

To do this our children will develop;

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- An acceptance that people having different faiths and beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of discriminatory behaviour
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination

Our aims and ethos of the school clearly reflect these values, and the whole school strives to uphold them.

Our school is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment. We value and promote shared personal achievement, high standards and respect for the individual. We believe that by working together we build understanding of one another and develop the self-esteem of every individual.

Our aims within our curriculum strive upon three fundamental principles;

- To provide every child with the life skills to become successful learners who reach their full potential.
- To provide a safe, supportive, stimulating and inclusive environment where every child is recognised, cared for, encouraged and valued.
- Rivermead will actively ensure the involvement of the whole community, particularly families, who have a vital role in supporting their children's education. This partnership will encourage healthy and positive attitudes motivating children to become life-long learners.

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Rivermead. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year; for example, Harvest Festival during the Autumn term. We also value and celebrate national focusses, examples being; Children's Mental Health Week, Anti-Bullying Week and Black History Month, with many more opportunities planned in throughout the year to collaborate with the wider community and world e.g. Children In Need.

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Rivermead Primary School. Democracy is central to how we operate.

An obvious example is our School Council. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret using ballot boxes etc. Made up of two representatives from each class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. The council works towards promoting positive change within the school; in the past, the School Council has hosted fundraising activities. The Council are actively involved in supporting teachers with feedback during inspections and visitor days.

Another example of 'pupil voice' is:

- Children are asked to respond and reflect on the teaching and learning they receive through pupil voice forums, questionnaires and part of school reviews.
- Children are regularly asked to make suggestions for the School Council to consider.
- Children are asked to provide opinions on what they would like to see within the school including books for the library and classroom, sports equipment and charities they would like to support throughout the year.

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

Parents' opinions are welcomed at Rivermead Primary through methods such as questionnaires and opportunities to comment on whole school matters e.g. after school provision.

Rule of Law

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses the school rules and class routines, 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, these rules are displayed in each class along with the Golden Rules of the school. These rules play a fundamental role in our behaviour policy throughout the school.

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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- Cycling Proficiency lessons enable children to understand the rules of the road and the potential dangers encountered should they break those rules.
- Road Safety Roadshow sessions also allow children to understand the rules of the road.
- During Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules

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, we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- Choices about how they can improve their learning
- Choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities

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 PSHE lessons.

By teaching the children how to manage and understand emotions they will be motivated and equipped to:

- Be effective and successful learners
- Make and sustain friendships
- Deal with and resolve conflict evenly and fairly

- Solve problems with others by themselves
- Manage strong feelings such as frustration, anger or anxiety
- Be able to promote calm and optimistic states that promote the achievement of goals
- Recover from setbacks and persist in the face of difficulties
- Work and play cooperatively
- Compete fairly and win or lose with dignity and respect for all competitors
- Recognise and stand up for their rights and the rights of others
- Understand the value the differences and commonalities between people, respecting the rights of others to have beliefs and values different to their own.
- To respect and value our world, and the things, both material and alive that exist within it.
- Children in 6 are given key roles and responsibilities such as Sport Ambassadors, Play Leaders and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.
- Through opportunities such as our extra-curricular clubs and Residential Trips, pupils are given the freedom to make safe choices.
- Children at Rivermead Primary are encouraged to make choices knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment.

Mutual Respect

We have high expectations of achievement and behaviour. Children and staff are polite and kind. We believe everyone has their own special gifts and we are encouraged to use them.

We listen and respect each other. We teach the children that conflict will be dealt with calmly and fairly. All members of the school family are valued equally. We celebrate learning and lunch time behaviour and taking care of our school environment and celebrate each other's achievements whether that be in or out of school through our weekly Special Book Assemblies and weekly Round Ups sent to parents of the school.

Teachers plan exciting, interesting, challenging and innovative lessons where everybody is expected to do their best and respect others.

Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs

Rivermead Primary School are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Tolerance, politeness and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims, ethos and R.E curriculum.

Our central aim to prepare children for the future drives us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. This will be particularly necessary in a future where due to technological advances will make the 'world a smaller place.'

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we at Rivermead Primary School enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- Through Religious Education, PSHE and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures – in English through fiction and in art and music by considering cultures from other parts of the world.
- Celebrating cultural differences through assemblies and themed weeks.
- Providing a diverse array of books which represent the children and families of our school, promoting different cultures through the protagonists and authors and raising important themes to help children explore real-life issues in a child-friendly manner.

Children and staff are encouraged to share their own experiences when celebrating their own faith within class, year groups and assemblies. Activities within school support both children and adults of different or no faith, the children are taught respect and tolerance of these groups and the opinions of the groups are taken into account with all activities. Whilst instances contrary to our values are relatively rare, each is treated seriously in line with our policies and expectations.