

British Values and The Prevention of Radicalisation

The Department for Education published their non-statutory advice to schools in November 2014 which detailed that maintained schools have obligations under section 78 of the Education Act 2002 requiring schools, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, "*to promote spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society*".

The guidance states that through the school meeting the requirements for collective worship, establishing a strong school ethos supported by effective relationships throughout the school, and providing relevant activities beyond the classroom, the school is ensuring pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

BRITISH VALUES

There is an expectation that schools 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 Meole Brace C of E Primary School and Nursery these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

At Meole Brace Primary children are actively encouraged to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly. Our active **School Council** is one such example. Every July or September we have an election week when the candidates for class representatives on the school council pitch their election manifesto to the rest of their class. A secret ballot ensues and the results are announced in a special assembly. The children love this process and have great respect for the outcomes. The school council representatives (2 per class from Reception to Year 6) meet regularly then take the ideas from the meeting back to their classes for discussion.

Every child also contributes their ideas to the composition of their own **Class Charter** every year. This sets ground rules for classroom conduct and establishes the standards of behaviour children can expect from each other over the year ahead. All children also complete an annual questionnaire which provides them with the opportunity to share their views of learning at Meole Brace and suggest ways in which the school could be improved further.

Governors also talk regularly to children to establish their views as a way of ensuring that school self-evaluation is robust and accurate, and therefore effective in moving the school forward.

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 day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school worship and assemblies. Children 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. Pupils are expected and encouraged to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society widely.

Individual Liberty

From when pupils start our Nursery, they are encouraged to develop their own self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Children are actively encouraged to make decisions and choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young children to take risks and make choices safely. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE and RSE lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, how they record their learning, participation in one of our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, children are given the freedom to make choices and make decisions.

Mutual Respect

As a Church of England School, mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Meole Brace C of E Primary School and Nursery is situated in an area which is not hugely culturally diverse, therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Worship and assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce this. Each year the children explore a world faith alongside their learning about Christianity. By the time they leave us all children have learnt about the beliefs and practices of people of the following world faiths; Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

At Meole Brace we will actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including those expressing 'extremist' views.

PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

The staff and Governing Body of Meole Brace C of E Primary School and Nursery does not tolerate extremist behaviour and will actively challenge school community members should there be any concerns in relation to this matter. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our children protects them from exposure to negative influences.

Meole Brace Primary is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

- Children are encouraged to adopt and live out the values stated in our mission statement. These complement the key "British Values" of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.
- Children are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through the SEAL (Social, emotional aspects of learning) assemblies and through the elected School Council members
- Children are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet.
- Children participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background.
- Children's wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and extra curricular learning opportunities.
- Children are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The RE (Religious Education), PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of our school. Children learn about all major faiths of the world and respect and tolerance is promoted through these lessons. Pupils are also taught explicitly about British Values through units of work that are mapped into our PSHE curriculum, but also as discreet on-going lessons. They are also taught about how to stay safe when using the internet.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Meole Brace C of E Primary School and Nursery to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the Child Protection/ Safeguarding Lead Teachers, either Mrs Davies or Mrs Rothwell.

