

## Verwood CE First School – Promoting British Values

The DfE have 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.”

These values are taught explicitly through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE), and Religious Education (RE). We also teach British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. We have achieved the following external accreditations which demonstrate evidence of our commitment to British Values:

- Ofsted grade of 'Outstanding' (May 2009)
- School Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) grade of 'Outstanding' (March 2014)

The school takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through daily collective worship and whole school systems and structures such as electing and running a successful school council. We also actively promote British values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values.

At Verwood CE First School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

At Verwood CE First School, children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a school council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council has its own budget and is able to genuinely effect change within the school. The school council members for each year group are voted in by their class.

Each week, during our praise worship Year 4 positive play leaders nominate and vote for children from each year group to be celebrated for demonstrating positive play at lunchtimes.

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.

Children have an annual questionnaire with which they are able to put forward their views about the school.

### **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 regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school worships.

We aim to enable children to develop reasoned self-discipline and socially acceptable behaviour, demonstrating good manners, respect and helpfulness towards each other and all adults. Our main

approach to behaviour management is to reinforce positive behaviour whenever possible and to recognise & reward this behaviour at every opportunity. As a school we believe that mistakes are an important part of learning. Therefore, it is important to us that we convey the message that everyone can learn from mistakes. There are occasions when children need guidance and clear boundaries. When inappropriate behaviour takes place, staff members consider each case on an individual basis and any decisions made will be dependent on circumstances.

If children make the wrong choice, then they are asked to identify which aspect of the code they have broken to ensure that this connection is made and understood. Our 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty**

At Verwood, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we provide boundaries for our children to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and planned curriculum. Pupils 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 lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

### **Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values and is explicit in our aims "Emotional intelligence is to do with a schools capacity to allow the feelings of both pupils and staff to be owned, expressed and respected". The learning values we strongly believe in are the 6 R's of learning: Resilience, Reflectiveness, Reciprocity, Resourcefulness, Respect and Responsibility. 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**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity in our local community which is by large white British. Collective Worship and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

At Verwood CE First School we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.