

BRITISH VALUES

Teaching 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.”

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 Arlesdene Nursery School and Pre-school these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Promoting British Values at Arlesdene Nursery School and Pre-school

Democracy: Making Decisions Together

- Staff encourage children to see their role in the bigger picture, encouraging children to know their views count, value each other’s views and values and talk about their feelings, for example when they do or do not need help. When appropriate they demonstrate democracy in action, for example, children sharing views on what the theme of their role play area could be with a show of hands
- Staff support the decisions that children make and provide activities that involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration. Children should be given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued

The Rule of Law: Understanding that Rules Matter

As part of the focus on managing feelings and behaviour:

- Staff ensure that children understand their own and others’ behaviour and its consequences, and learn to distinguish right from wrong.
- Staff collaborate with children to create the rules and the codes of behaviour, for example, to agree the rules about tidying up and ensure that all children understand that rules apply to everyone.

Individual Liberty: Freedom for All

As part of the focus on self-confidence & self-awareness and people & communities as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development and Understanding the World:

- Children are supported to develop a positive sense of themselves. Staff provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities, for example through allowing children to take risks on an obstacle course, mixing colours, talking about their experiences and learning.
- Staff encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions, for example in a small group discuss what they feel about transferring into Reception Class.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance: Treat Others as you Want to be Treated

As part of the focus on people & communities, managing feelings & behaviour and making relationships as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development and Understanding the World:

- Leaders and governors create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued and children are engaged with the wider community
- Children are supported to acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures; know about similarities and differences between themselves and others and among families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences
- Staff encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions
- Staffs promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping

A minimum approach, for example having notices on the walls or multi-faith books on the shelves, will fall short of 'actively promoting'.

What is not acceptable is:

- actively promoting intolerance of other faiths, cultures and races
- failure to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregate girls and boys
- isolating children from their wider community
- failure to challenge behaviours (whether of staff, children or parents) that are not in line with the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs