

British Values at Richard de Clare

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."*

At Richard de Clare we believe these British Values are not taught in discrete lessons, rather, demonstrated in how we speak to the children, what we offer them, how our curriculum is designed, in short - our tolerant, respectful, child centred environment models the very values described in the above paragraph.

Democracy:

Democracy is endemic within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Family Council and Pupil Perception Questionnaires. Pupil voice has provided feedback on school meals and helped to choose Theme lunches, chosen our supported charities and the events that raise money for them and helped with the recruitment of staff. Importantly, pupil voice also chose our Owl emblem for our Learning Skills Curriculum, articulated our Core Values, recommended the roll out of our Choose your Challenge differentiation strategy and devised our motto - Dream big, work hard, believe and achieve. In the wider community pupil voice has been responsible for naming a local road and taking part in the consultation on a local Community Centre. Well done children!

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 assemblies. 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. Pupils decided upon our Core Values, our 3 basic rules or laws that underpin everything we do here at R de C - Be Kind, Be Safe, Respect, because they felt that they encompassed all the desirable behaviours we expect from our pupils, both in and out of school. Visits from and to authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; Lifeguards etc. are regular parts of our curriculum and help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty:

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through of provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these

safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge in core subjects, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect:

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions, Family learning activities and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Pupils show respect for others in the community and make a positive contribution to this community by regularly taking part in local activities such as Town in Bloom, Remembrance day and the local Civic Parade.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

This is achieved through enhancing pupil's understanding of their place in a culturally diverse country and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Part of our RE curriculum involves welcoming visitors from other cultures (not represented in our predominantly white Christian school). Encouraging harmony between different cultural traditions, we arrange visits from different groups, in one term these were as diverse as a troupe of Maasai Warriors and a traditional brass band. This has been extremely successful in breaking down stereotypes and affording children the opportunity to meet people they ordinarily wouldn't.