

Promoting British Values at St. Mark's CE Primary School

St Mark's CE Primary School is committed to serving its community. We recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith nature of the United Kingdom and understand the crucial role our school plays in promoting these values so that children are prepared positively for life in modern Britain. We support admissions from all those entitled to education under British law regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status. We welcome all families who want to learn here.

General Overview

British history is taught throughout the school. Although the World Wars are studied in specific Year groups, all children in school are made aware of the impact that the military had in fighting for the British Empire, during annual Remembrance Day commemorations where children purchase poppies and a two minutes silence is held. As a whole school, we have celebrated the World Cup, the Olympics and Para Olympics and the centenary of World War One. In recent years, we celebrated the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The Diamond Jubilee was a huge event for the school, with a tea party event held on the grounds. On a general level, the school undertakes daily assemblies which uphold traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance. These are also taught within formal PSHE and RE lessons and on an informal nature throughout the school day. Through the Class Collective Worship Calendar, Saints Days, charitable events and other significant occasions are celebrated and our children learn the history and impact of these on British culture today.

Democracy

Children are involved in Democratic processes e.g. voting for School Council, Sports Ambassadors, Friendship Group and Learning Council. Each Council is led by a member of staff and adheres to democratic processes, encouraging class reps to report back to their peers. Half termly, children are given a pupil voice activity to express feelings to wards an area of school life. Actions are taken in light of the responses. In Year 6 children are taught about the British democratic system as part of the PSHE curriculum. This gives some understanding of democracy within the UK.

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. 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 are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. The concept of the Rule of Law is also reinforced through teaching activities in our PSHE and citizenship curriculum.

Individual Liberty

As a school we educate and provide boundaries for children to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Children 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.

Mutual Respect

Respect underpins our 6 R's curriculum and is the basis for our behaviour policy. Children have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. These ideas are reiterated through classroom rules. Our Year 6 and Year 2 Red Carders scheme promote mutual respect between pupils across different phases of school. Additional support is given to individual children to help develop self esteem and the concept of respect. Nurture groups runs throughout lunchtime to help promote the value and need for respect in social times as well as within class.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Our R.E curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures. Children are taught about different world faiths and we invite visitors into our lessons to help us experience faith, belief and culture through first hand experiences. This is incorporated into our curriculum planning for RE. We follow the Stockport Agreed syllabus for RE.. We actively seek to enhance pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are regularly held. We also use local, national and world wide events in order to celebrate and learn from each other.