

Swallownest Primary School

Teaching British Values Policy

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Policy adopted: September 2018

Policy reviewed:

Next review: September 2019

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Education
Department



Teaching British Values Policy

Promoting British Values at Swallownest Primary School

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 this year (2014). At Swallownest Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Each year the children discuss upon their class charter and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the charter/class contract.

We have a student council which meets fortnightly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. Every child on the student council is voted in by their class.

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

Building children’s resilience to radicalisation

At Swallownest Primary School we build on children’s resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision making. We promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all our children and, within this, fundamental British values.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Swallownest Primary School.

Pupils are taught on entry into school the ‘8 Golden Rules’. These are our School Rules, Playground Rules and Safety Rules, and encompass expectations both within and outside of the classroom. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and 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, Fire Service and NSPCC help reinforce this message.

Our system for behaviour is aligned to our agreed set of rules and children are rewarded and receive sanctions through a clear and structured process. To encourage and promote positive behaviour, attitude and work we have devised a reward system which is consistently followed throughout school. We are committed to praising children’s efforts. We endeavour to praise the children informally individually, during group work, in front of the whole class and the whole school.

Children are rewarded not only for achievement in curriculum areas but for behaviour, effort and commitment to trying to be their very best. Rewards are given in the form of Merit Points, which children collect for their house teams, but are also rewarded for individually. They receive a badge each time they collect a multiple of 50, presented during our weekly celebration assembly. The team points will be counted at the end of each half term and the winning team will receive a reward – helping us to promote teamwork within school.

Individual Liberty

At Swallownest Primary 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 informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. 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.

Children are given the freedom to make choices e.g. signing up for our broad range of after school clubs and other responsibilities at school, e.g. Healthy Tuck Shop Monitor, Playground Leader. Children are active in enterprise projects and make informed choices regarding fundraising initiatives. Our School Council liaise regularly with our PTA (Parent Teacher Association) to support their fundraising events.

Mutual Respect

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. The first of our school rules reads:

- We choose our words carefully, to show respect for each other.

Our Vision and Core Values have 'respect at the heart'.

Our vision and values are shared with home through newsletters and website information. Adults throughout the school model, demonstrate and promote respect for others. This is continually re-iterated through our classroom and learning rules.

Tolerance of Those Different Faiths and Beliefs

We aim to educate and enhance pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. Collective worship and discussions involving prejudice based bullying are supported by Religious Education lessons, PSHE lessons and by working with Rotherham United Football Club who offer 'Respect' and 'Show Racism the Red Card' training.

Each year group develops a secure knowledge and understanding of one faith where they learn about their customs, practises and celebrations. By the end of their learning journey at Swallownest Primary School, children will have a broadened knowledge of understanding of world faiths.