

Preparing Children for Life in Modern Britain - British Values

From as soon as they begin in Inkpen Primary School, within the context of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Learning, staff at school start equipping children with the knowledge and skills to think for themselves, to challenge and to debate. We provide them with opportunities to gain an understanding of the values we share, and learn about different cultures and faiths. We give children the space, within a safe environment, to explore, develop a sense of identity and form opinions. Whilst encouraging children to express their views, we also help them to appreciate the impact these opinions can have on others and to take responsibility for what they say.

British Value	
Democracy	<p>Democracy is embedded in our school. Pupils are 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. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through regular class circle and discussion times.</p> <p>Areas where children are given choices in school include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Voting for “team Captains”, where candidates make speeches and pupils vote in a secret ballot Other elections are also held regularly such as the yearly “Greenaway” vote in school when shadowing the Greenaway award for picture books - with Y5&6 advocates for each book ○ Supporting the vulnerable in society, where children in school decide amongst themselves which charities they would like to support and how they would like to raise the money
Rule of law	<p>The importance of Laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country and how they are designed to keep us safe are referred to and reinforced often in school. At the start of the year, each class discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our 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.</p> <p>These values are reinforced in different ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visits from the authorities such as the police and fire service ○ During religious education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about ○ During participation in debates on topical subjects relating to justice and the law - Eg: Immigration and Terrorism <p>A recent initiative has involved Y5&6 thinking of a new school rule that the school could adopt. Each group decided on a new rule and then created an advert to persuade the rest of the school to vote for them. The winning campaign has been adopted as a new school rule.</p>

Individual Liberty	Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express our views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment, we provide boundaries for and encourage our pupils to make choices safely. Whether this is through choice of challenge, how they record their work or participation in our numerous extra-curricular activities, our school provides opportunities for the children to make choices, express their opinions and find creative solutions to problems. The children are actively involved in their own learning, seeking opportunities for further challenge. Pupils are also taught though, that with these “Rights” also come responsibilities.
Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs	Tolerance, politeness and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims and ethos at Inkpen Primary School. Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and everything, whatever difference we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices also have an effect on their rights and those of others. This respect for others helps to ensure tolerance of those who may have different faiths and beliefs to us. We help to enhance pupils’ understanding of different faiths and religions through religious studies; PSHE work and participation in celebrations such as Diwali and European Day of Languages. Beliefs, traditions and customs are studied in depth, with visitors being invited into our school to extend and enrich the children’s understanding. Through this, our pupils gain an insight into their place in a culturally diverse society. While instances contrary to our values are rare, no school can guarantee these will never happen. Each is treated seriously, in line with our policies and expectations.