

Preparing for Life in Modern Britain

Ayresome Primary School caters for pupils who have a range of pupils some with complex needs and most with EAL. We prepare children for life in modern Britain by upholding and teaching pupils about 'British Values' which the government defines as:

- democracy
- rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

These values are taught explicitly through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHCE), Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Education (SMSC) and Religious Education (RE). We also teach the British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. The values are presented in ways in which directly reflect the learning styles, special needs and the ability of individual pupils.

The school takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through our daily collective acts of worship, phase and whole school assemblies. We also actively promote the British values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values.

Actively promoting British Values also means challenging pupils, staff or parents/carers expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views. We actively encourage children to behave appropriately, make good choices, respecting the views of others being respectful of the contribution of others, recognising and celebrating achievement in others and these combined with giving our pupils an appreciation and understanding of other cultures we hope to personalise the approach and encourage pupils to be treat others with respect, understanding and tolerance.

'British Values' are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy – Democracy is an important value at our school. In the upper school the more able students are taught to understand and accept the majority decision of their peers. This might be as straight forward as deciding on school visits, choice of venue and destination. It might reflect the choice of the majority when subject options and activities are decided upon.

Rule of Law – The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day. The children are given time to consider the part that we all play in society. They learn about their rights and also their responsibilities and how our actions have consequences that can affect those around them at a level at which they can understand and begin to make positive choices. Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

Daily class time sets the tone for the day in terms of our high expectations and, over the year some, more able children work towards Personal Targets as well as Marvellous Me Awards for exceptional work and behaviour. We expect all children to follow the school rules and expectations.

Individual Liberty – Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices at our school, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety teaching and PSHCE lessons. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, e.g. signing up for lunch-time clubs, after schools clubs and musical provision. .

Mutual Respect – Part of our school ethos and behaviour management policy are based around core Christian values such as ‘respect’ and ‘tolerance’ and these values determine how we live as a community at Ayresome Primary School. Children and adults alike, including visitors, are challenged if they are disrespectful in any way. Values are highly visible around the school and usually take the form of lens wall boards and mentoring books around school.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths & Beliefs – Children need to learn how to show respect for others and understand that difference is not only acceptable, but welcome. Tolerance is one of our key values. Children know that everyone is welcome in our school. Assemblies and work in class ensure that this message is constantly reinforced. We have strong links to many places of worship including local churches and children also have the opportunity to visit them to see the workings of a Christian Church.

The RE curriculum gives the children an overview of a range of religions under SACRE guidance. Assemblies involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are followed up by learning in RE and PSHCE through our JIGSAW scheme of work. We actively promote the anti-bullying project annually. Any concerns raised about lack of tolerance or respect for others on school premises, are followed up stringently. We use opportunities such as the Olympics and the World Cup to study and learn about life and culture in other countries.

Development of Skills & Attitudes to Contribute Positively to Life in Modern Britain

Children are encouraged to look after the school building and contents and to see the link between finance and material possessions. Children learn about key figures in history who have contributed to positive changes to society and consider how they can emulate these ideas. Children have many opportunities for learning about Great Britain and the wider world around us. School has created core lens wall posters demonstrating core role models and figures in recent history. Older children are encouraged to support younger or less able children at key times such as assemblies, break-time, lunch times and during themed days. Curricular activities promote a positive mental attitude and team spirit. Such roles as Peace Pals and School Parliament helps to encourage children to learn about healthy competition, debate, decision making and how working together can make us stronger.

Cultural Influences

We have planned our curriculum carefully to include study about our local heritage. Children have the opportunity to visit local areas of historic and cultural significance. This includes churches, castles and stately homes. Children also learn about the world wars and commemorate November 11th each year in lots of different ways, e.g. by making poppies, watching clips. We also engage in locality events such as Sanctuary Week at the local University.

Artistic, Sporting & Cultural Opportunities

Each class makes regular visits out of school to local places of interest, often with artistic, historical or cultural significance. E.g. children enjoy visits to museums, art galleries and sporting venues. We provide a broad balanced and progressive Art curriculum which is integrated into other areas of the curriculum. The school's aim is to enable each child to reach their full potential in Art, through investigating and making, research and the development of skills and through the evaluation of their own artwork and that made by others. We aim to ensure that all pupils know about great artists and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Ayresome provides a broad, balanced and progressive music curriculum which is integrated into other areas of the curriculum where appropriate. Each child is recognised as having different abilities and aptitudes. Children are encouraged to make individual progress during music lessons through a range of activities, irrespective of their starting level. As well as music lessons, children sing each week in assembly and as part of performances and productions. We provide instrumental tuition free of charge to over 90 pupils annually and this includes examinations under Trinity Music College as we are a registered centre of excellence.

RE is taught throughout the school. The overall aim of the subject is to enable pupils to develop respect for different beliefs whilst providing them with the opportunities to develop and discover their own personal values. The curriculum reflects the fact that the UK is a multi-cultural society with Christianity as its main religion. The teaching of RE is both creative and varied. Approaches include international weeks, RRSa UNICEF Level 1 accreditation, food tasting, drama, visiting the local Church, exploring festivals through art, re-telling important stories and considering personal beliefs. All teachers plan a range of artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities across the year so that learning in all areas is enriched.