

Promoting British Values at Ashfield Junior School

At Ashfield we ensure that through our school vision, values, rules and curriculum and teaching, we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles.

We have the duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. We value the importance of the current DFE guidance:

“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 Ashfield these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Each year the children reflect on our school community rules:

- Be Safe
- Work hard and allow others to work
- Be kind to one-another
- Respect property and our school environment

And draw up upon their class rules and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the class rules.

We have a student council which meets every weekly with their facilitator teacher to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council has its own budget and is genuinely able to effect change within the school. Every child on the student council is voted in by their class. The school councillors report back each week to their classes; and children vote to express their preferences when there are decisions to be made.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Ashfield. Pupils are taught the rules of the school on admission. They 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. We have a strict orange and blue card system for encouraging good behaviour and adherence to our rules. Children who keep our code of conduct receive “Reward Time” each week. Visits from authorities such as the Police and our Community Support Officers also help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

At Ashfield, 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 eSafety and PSHE lessons

Mutual Respect

At Ashfield the school rules are revisited at the start of each academic year to set clear expectations of respectful behaviour. It is an expectation that all stakeholders at Ashfield will treat each other with dignity and respect. Where our children show disrespect towards each other, this is handled through our sanctions system within our behaviour policy. Time is given for repair and restoration; and to talk about and consider the behaviours which are

disrespectful to others. Regular RTime sessions promote good working relationships and encourage respect for each other. This theme is also considered within our PSHE and SEAL work. Our achievements assemblies allow children's efforts and achievements to be acknowledged and rewarded by the whole school community.

We have an effective behaviour policy which includes our anti-bullying policy. This is used consistently by all staff. Our HLTA with responsibility for pastoral support offers opportunities to children to resolve conflicts and repair relationships.

Opportunities are given to the children through our Sports Partnership to work collaboratively as a team and also engage in individual and team competitions against other schools. Our children learn to win with pride and lose with good grace, proud of their own efforts and appreciative of the skills of the winning team. All our children have the opportunity to represent Ashfield in sporting, musical, academic and social events within the local community.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Ashfield follows the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE, which ensures that children have the opportunity to learn about world religions. Our assemblies contribute to children's knowledge of world faiths and celebrations. Members of the Watford Schools Trust visit Ashfield regularly to participate in RE lessons and lead assemblies. Children have opportunities with the curriculum to visit places of worship. It is a long-standing Ashfield tradition to hold an annual carol service in St James', our local parish church.

As a result, Ashfield children have a strong sense of community and understand their roles and responsibilities within it.