

British Values Statement



Promoting British values at Milverton Community 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.*”

At Milverton Primary School, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy is a strong thread throughout the school and children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a school council (elected by their peers) who meet regularly to decide on improvements they would like to make to our school; last year they made recommendations on improving playtimes, adoption of a house system within the school (see below), implemented cloakroom inspections to encourage others to look after their possessions and the school environment and worked with other local school councils to work on a transition project (from primary to secondary).

Sports leaders are also elected and work together to promote sporting values throughout the school and beyond. All children have the opportunity to talk to senior staff on a regular basis and use these occasions to share their views. The Headteacher also has an open door policy where any individual, both children and staff can come and share their views, and they do.

The school has vertical house system of four houses; Cork Oak, Horse Chestnut, London Plane and Blue Cedar. House and Vice Captains are elected by the children to lead their houses.

Milverton Community Primary School is proud to be a Green Flag Eco-School. This is the highest award available and assessors repeatedly comment favourably on the children’s engagement on issues affecting the school and the children’s part in the decision-making process through the Eco-Committee, to which children are democratically elected by their peers.

Milverton School children have also presented at Somerset Children’s Parliament and have been involved in the writing of school policies, such as the Anti-Bullying Policy.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, and consequently respect for the rule of law, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value of, and reasons behind, laws that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Our school Behaviour Policy centres on the consequences of our choices, with emphasis being placed on the consequences of the positive and negative choices we make, and on personal responsibility. The School Code is a concise version of our

behavioural 'rules': it is displayed prominently in school and referred to regularly so that the children can internalise the behaviour and ethos of our school.

We have strong links with our local PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) who regularly visits the school to talk to children and lead assemblies. We also promote E-safety through lessons, assemblies and the school website so children are fully aware of the rules and their responsibilities regarding social media.

Individual Liberty

Within 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 choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and 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 PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) lessons. Examining the lives and achievements of inspirational people during lessons and assemblies helps to reinforce the children's understanding of civil rights, freedom of choice and how to be productive and valuable members of society. Whether it is through the choices they make to challenge themselves, of how they create and record their work, or of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities to represent the school, we encourage pupils to make their own choices and help them to recognise and deal with the consequences, both positive and negative.

Mutual Respect

Our school ethos and behaviour policy is centred round our core values such as trust, respect, politeness and courtesy; i.e. treating people the way you wish to be treated. This extends to the children and adults within the school and wider community. Pupils are frequently part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. In year 5, our pupils are trained to be Buddies and they assume this role in year 6. They are responsible for facilitating happy playtimes through initiating games and resolving minor disputes. They do this through their buddy training, in which they learn to follow a process of restorative justice. We hold half-termly Celebration Assemblies to promote our core values and high standards. It is an opportunity to congratulate and respect others in celebratory manner.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Our school Vision Statement explicitly states that we are a school focused on "sustaining...moral...well-being" and this is followed through in a variety of ways. Through our Religious Education Syllabus the children learn to respect and value a variety of faiths and cultural practices, many of which will be different to their own. Our school follows the Somerset Agreed Syllabus for RE which is written to promote understanding of, and tolerance for, the major World religions. This helps pupils to be tolerant through the exploration, discussion and appreciation of new and unfamiliar ideas in a safe environment where they can ask questions and challenge their own beliefs, thus enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. Our school vision places an emphasis on preparing children to take their place and contribute to a rich and diverse World economy. The final statement, 'The World is our classroom!' is emphatic and explicit recognition that we must all respect and learn from the rich diversity of cultures and faiths in Great Britain and beyond.