



British Values at Great Missenden 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 in June 2014, reiterated the role that British values play in education. The Prevent Strategy defines fundamental British Values as "Democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs".

At Great Missenden CE Combined School we take very seriously our responsibility for preparing children for life in modern Britain. We ensure that the fundamental British values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos of our school, through the curriculum, collective worship and a wide range of extra-curricular activities and community links.

At the heart of everything we do at Great Missenden are our school values – Truth, Love, Faith, Courage, Respect and Community. These form the basis of our behaviour expectations of each other, our rights and responsibilities, giving the pupils at Great Missenden an excellent platform to understand and embrace difference.

At Great Missenden School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

One of the many strengths of Great Missenden school is the pupil voice. We have an active school council with 2 representatives from each class who meet weekly. The children chair their own meetings (under the supervision of a teacher) and take their own minutes which are then shared with the whole school. Children who wish to be a school councillor put themselves forward at the start of the academic year and make a speech, then the class vote for their chosen candidate.

The school council represent the children's voice and they have their own blog and page on the school's website. The children are involved in the recruitment of teaching and support staff and the purchasing of new equipment such as water fountains and the outdoor classroom.

The aim of the school council is to ensure all children's voices are heard. Each class has a weekly school council session and the designated councillors feedback any points raised in the meetings.



The school council 2015-16

In May 2015 the school held its own school election.

Children heard from local councillors then the school held its own election.

Children formed parties and decided on policies which they then presented to the school.

On May 7th, the day of the general election, the school held its own election and "The People's Party" led by Thomas Jarvis was voted in as the winner with policies including better ICT programmes and more ketchup with school dinner.



Pupil voice

At Great Missenden, as well as the school council, children also have the opportunity to become Eco-Warriors, SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group) members and Librarians. These groups play a vital part in making key decisions and have been key in helping the school achieve our Green Flag Award and the prestigious Gold Food For Life Award.

Pupil surveys are carried out each year and the results are shared with staff, pupils, parents and governors. As a school we take the results of these surveys very seriously and each year since starting the surveys there has been an ever improving trend in the results as it has allowed to address us children's concerns and worries directly.

Charity

The school has a designated charity for each half term and money is raised for this charity through activities such as mufti days, sponsored workouts and sponsored walks.



The British Legion is our designated charity for Autumn 2 half term (pictured).

Charities are decided by the school council, some are regular charities which we support annually and others have a personal meaning to the children.

The school is taking part in the **Make A Difference Challenge** and we are going to all become 'Go Givers'. The children were set a home learning log task to think of an issue that is important to them. The most popular topics from each class were brought to the school council who decided on the topic of 'Road Safety'. The other topics will also be explored during the 'Make a Difference club'.



The access to Great Missenden School is difficult, with over 400 children negotiating two narrow entrances (Church Street and Buryfield) avoiding cars and reversing coaches (see above). The children are seeing solutions to this problem.

The rule of law

At the start of each school year, as the children meet their new teacher and start their new school year, each class writes and agrees on a set of rules and expectations. The children are also aware of the general school rules and break-time monitors and year 6 children remind the children of expected standards. The school has a consistently applied Behaviour For Learning policy which sets out school expectations of behaviour. This is agreed by parents and children when they join the school by signing the Home School Agreement. Expectations are reinforced regularly and positive choices that pupils make are praised and celebrated. Pupils are taught why we have laws, the responsibility we all have to keep these laws and that there can be consequences when laws are broken.

- School rules including playground rules and classroom rules
- Community links to PCSOs – workshops and assemblies

- Road laws – Bikeability, Footsteps
- Pupils are taught the value behind rules & laws, that they govern & protect us
- Philosophy for Children – considering big questions. All the children have experience of this in PSHE / RE and circle time.

Individual Liberty

As a school we believe every child should be challenged on a daily basis and children are able to influence their own learning through a choice of activities. In lessons children are offered the option of 3 differentiated activities and they are encouraged to choose the most challenging activity appropriate for them.

Children are taught to work with a Growth Mindset. This means that mistakes can be a positive experience and allow us to learn and move forward.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms safely e.g. through e-safety and PSHE lessons

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our school values. Children are taught that we might not always agree with other people, but we try and show respect for their thoughts and feelings. We can give respect to others and expect other people to show respect for us too.

All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Tolerance is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society, by educating them and giving children opportunities to experience different faiths and beliefs, be they similar or different to their own.

Children are taught about the diversity of religion and beliefs through topic work, RE lessons, assemblies and visits to the Mosque in Chesham. Our curriculum incorporates teaching and learning opportunities for children to explore aspects of the wider world and an appreciation of cultural diversity.



Chesham Mosque which year 3 visit as part of their Islam topic.