

Promoting British Values

The Government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated in 2014. The British Values are: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. At Holly Trees Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

- Each year children decide upon their Class Rules and the rights and responsibilities associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the rules.
- We have a School Council which meets regularly with a member of staff. The members report back to their own classes, and if required, at a whole school assembly at which the Inclusion Leader and Councillors address the matter raised. Recent examples of matters raised include fundraising, buying basketballs for classes and the use of the all-weather football pitch.
- Pupils elect the Head Boy and Girl and other senior pupil offices following a range of meetings, hustings and speeches.
- Children visit the council offices to meet the Mayor and raise the Commonwealth and St George's flags.

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 school. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school, reflected in our behaviour policy and in our class rules, playground rules and safety rules. Pupils 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. Every adult in the school and visitors to the school help reinforce this message. Year 6 participate in junior citizenship workshops run by the local authority, which include the police, fire, and health.

Individual Liberty

- Children 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 children to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and they are advised how to exercise these safely, for example, through Forest School, our eSafety and PSHE & citizenship aspects to lessons.

Mutual Respect

- Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

- We believe diversity is strength at Holly Trees. We actively promote diversity through our celebration of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Visits to places of worship important to different faiths are problematic because of our location and the costs involved. As an alternative we ensure that children meet representatives of other faiths in school.