



Rotherhithe Primary School – Celebrating British Values

Preparing our Children for Life in Modern Britain at Rotherhithe Primary School

At Rotherhithe Primary School, we uphold and teach pupils British Values as directed under new Ofsted guidance, September 2014. We take our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern multicultural Britain very seriously.

We ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of the school. All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts and, in particular, our RE, SMSC, and Philosophy for Children lessons provide excellent opportunities to deepen and develop understanding.

Children embrace concepts of, *Mutual Respect, Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, Democracy, The Rule of Law and Individual Liberty*, with pride and we continuously encourage them to demonstrate a good understanding of the application of these to their own lives.

We further promote these values across our broad, balanced and developing curriculum, through our own values of:

Courageous, Caring , Ambitious, Resilient, Empathetic

Examples of the understanding and knowledge our pupils learn include:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted , celebrated and tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination in all forms

British Value	Statement
Mutual Respect and the tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	We are proud of our status as a <i>community</i> primary. We serve all members of our diverse community including children from many different faith backgrounds as well as children from a non-faith background. We recognise that knowledge and understanding of different faiths reduces prejudice and mistrust between faiths. We learn about different faiths in RE lessons and use assemblies and newsletters to explore major dates in the calendars of different religions.
Democracy	The children at Rotherhithe Primary see democracy practised and celebrated in a variety of ways. We have an elected School Council which represents a genuine student voice in the school. We use authentic polling equipment from Southwark electoral Services to hold the elections which helps us to teach the children about the electoral system used in the UK. We explore issues around democracy in special assemblies (for example; exploring the theme of Scottish Devolution or the prospect of a 'Hung Parliament').
Rule of Law	The children have a good understanding of the need for rules in a community to protect the interests of all members of that community. They are involved in drawing up class rules at the start of each academic year. We use our school values (Courageous, Caring, Ambitious, Resilient, Empathetic) to underpin all discussions around respecting class rules. We have close links with our local PCSOs who visit school to talk about the law and discuss issues

	<p>around justice and laws. We explore issues around the rule of law in P4C sessions and special assemblies – for example we used the 5th November as an opportunity to discuss the ethics and morality of both the persecution of Catholics under King James I and the gunpowder plotters' morality in using violence to achieve their goals.</p>
Individual Liberty	<p>Our core value of <i>empathy</i> which, like all our school values, is central to all that we do in school, allows us to explore how we should: treat others how we would like to be treated, see the world through the eyes of others and respect the beliefs and ways of life of other people even if they are different from our own. Discussions at the start of the year around setting class rules provide a vehicle for exploring the need to balance the rights of the individual against the rights of the group.</p>