



BRITISH VALUES

What are “British Values”?
How does Hermitage School promote
them?

Values

At Hermitage we believe we need to prepare children for life in the UK where the population has an increasingly rich diversity of backgrounds, origins, beliefs and cultures by promoting the **values** on which our society has been built.

“Values are principles that drive behaviour, influence our attitudes and become our framework for living.

They influence our relationship with ourselves and others.”

The Education Act (2002) stated that schools must promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and ensure that they are actively promoting fundamental British Values.

Guidance from the DfE in November 2014 highlighted British Values as:

- **Democracy**
- **Rule of Law**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

We have a duty to promote:

- **an appreciation of democracy – local and national government, the right to vote and choose**
- **an understanding of rules and laws – why we have them, how they govern our school and our country,**
- **the practice of individual liberty – personal freedom and how to exercise it safely,**
- **a belief in mutual respect**
- **an atmosphere of tolerance**

How do these things happen at Hermitage Primary School?

Teaching British Values is not bolted on as another subject area. They run through all subjects and aspects of school life.

British Values are modelled by ALL ADULTS INVOLVED IN SCHOOL LIFE.

They provide a clear awareness of and a framework for acceptable behaviour against which all choices of behaviour are evaluated.

Democracy

- ❖ **Choosing/voting in new school council members**
- ❖ **Choosing charities to support throughout the year, discussing and planning fundraising events.**
- ❖ **Focussed activities about parliamentary democracy and local/national government.**
- ❖ **Encouraging volunteering: lunchtime helpers, playground leaders, etc.**

Rules and Laws

- ❖ **The importance of rules and laws, whether they govern our school (Hermitage Heroes) or our country, are referred to and reinforced often through assemblies and in class.**
- ❖ **Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us – assemblies with community police officers, fire safety officers,**
- ❖ **In RE, classes look at the rules and laws surrounding different faiths.**
- ❖ **Children who are particularly good role models and highlight the ethos of school in their actions receive Head teacher stickers/merit points in Hermitage Heroes assemblies.**

Individual Liberty

We promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- ❖ **Choices about what learning challenge or activity they undertake.**
- ❖ **Choices about how they record their learning.**
- ❖ **Participation in competitions both internal and external including academic challenges and sporting opportunities.**
- ❖ **Choices regarding their participation in extra-curricular activities.**
- ❖ **Choices on how to keep safe on-line**

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, through discussion and the curriculum for SMSC/British Values.

Mutual Tolerance and Respect

- ❖ Mutual respect is at the heart of our [aims and ethos](#). Our pupils know and understand that they are expected to show respect to everyone, whatever differences they may have.
- ❖ They are also taught to respect the school environment and the world around them. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on school and society and that they must be equipped with the skills to make the right choices.
- ❖ Pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are developed through specific aspects of the curriculum such as:
 - Religious Education lessons
 - SMSC lessons/discussions
 - Assemblies
 - Celebrations and displays of other festivals (Diwali, Chinese New Year)
 - Language days
 - Art, Music and Dance lessons
- ❖ Our Hermitage School Code of Behaviour also addresses treating all members of the school community with respect.

Where next?

- ❖ **Link Autumn whole school art theme with British Values – “Portrait of a Nation”**
- ❖ **Develop T&L about different cultures through Music, Dance and Art**
- ❖ **Develop the use of “Philosophy for Children” across the Key Stages,**
- ❖ **Develop links with schools in other places across the country/world,**
- ❖ **Promote and highlight British Values work being done: displays in classrooms/website/planning**
- ❖ **Continue to celebrate the positive contributions to the local and national communities made by the children in our care.**