



Skilts School



The Department for Education has 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, 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 these values have been reiterated in 2014. At Skilts School we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils' character and moral perspective, through the teachings of the Church.

Through our Thematic Curriculum we teach about democracy, civic responsibility, rules and laws, the monarchy, equality, values and virtues, environmental awareness and understanding of other faiths.

Being part of Britain

As a school we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Skilts School. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions, such as customs in the course of the year and we value and celebrate national events.

Democracy – what do we do?

- Pupils reflect upon their rights and responsibilities for our Five Golden Rules
- Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services
- Teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- Hold class debates so pupils learn how to argue and defend points of view
- Help pupils to express their views
- Enable pupils to have their voices heard through our School Council and pupil discussions
- Teach pupils how public services operate and how they are held to account
- Model how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged

Rule of law – what do we do?

- Ensure school rules and expectations are clear and fair: our Five Classroom Expectations
- Pupils recognise they are ambassadors for the school when representing the school outside e.g. educational visits

- Help pupils to distinguish right from wrong
- Help pupils to respect the law and the basis on which it is made
- Help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals
- Develop restorative justice approaches to resolve conflicts
- Safety visits e.g. road safety, fire safety, police, online safety

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced on a daily basis, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws; that they govern and protect us. The responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Individual liberty – what do we do?

- Skilts School is a safe place for children and nurtures an atmosphere in which pupils can make choices about school life in a supportive environment
- Support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights
- Model freedom of speech through pupil participation, while ensuring protection of vulnerable pupils and promoting critical analysis of evidence
- Challenge stereotypes
- Implement a strong anti-bullying culture
- Choosing of learning challenges/activities
- Taking part in enrichment clubs
- Through marking and feedback pupils know their successes and what the next steps are for learning

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 provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example, through our Protective Behaviours and AaRT programs.

Mutual respect and tolerance of others – what do we do?

- Promote respect for individual differences
- Celebration assembly – Sports Stars, Lunch time Stars, Students of the week
- Help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life
- Challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour

- Organise visits to places of worship
- Children of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school
- Develop links with other faith communities
- Develop critical personal thinking skills
- Discuss differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, and gender and differences of family situations, such as young carers
- At Skilts School we actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to the values we hold as a school, including 'extremist' views.

Vision

All members of the school community will be inspired to learn through rich experiences, progress through achievement and become the very best they can be. We will make healthy, safe and positive choices; solve problems, face challenges and have respect for ourselves, others and our environment.

We value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all pupils and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate these and these are built in to our whole school curriculum map. We have found this approach to be enriching for all parties as it teaches tolerance and respect for the differences in our community and the wider world. Underpinning all of this are a range of curriculum topics which have strong links to British values.

Over the past few years as a whole school, we have celebrated topics such as:

- The Olympics/Para Olympics – where children learned about the history of Olympians nationally and locally
- The Diamond Jubilee anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II where all year groups were given the opportunity to develop their understanding of the British Monarchy through the school's creative curriculum.
- The Queen becoming the longest reigning monarch in September 2015
- Voted in our own General Election in May 2015
- The First World War and the Second World War.
- On a more general level the school undertakes assemblies which uphold traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance. These are also taught within formal RE lessons and on an informal nature throughout the school days. The curriculum also focuses on other faiths where our pupils learn about Judaism and Islam