



Promoting British Values

All schools are expected to provide opportunities for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. As part of this, schools must promote "Fundamental British values".

The Department for Education defines these values as:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

At Escrick CofE Primary School, we are committed to actively promoting these values throughout our school community. These values are woven into our daily practice through our curriculum, assemblies, collective worship, and the culture and ethos of our school. Our pupils regularly engage with and develop their understanding of British values through meaningful teaching and learning opportunities across all areas of school life.

Democracy

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a school council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised by any child in our school. The school council members are voted in by their peers and this gives pupils first-hand experience of democracy and the electoral process. When appointing a new headteacher in Summer 2015 the children were invited to contribute to a letter to prospective applicants as well as having an opportunity to ask questions through the school council during the interview day.

The school council members also choose a charity to support each year and they organise fundraising events to raise money and awareness.

PSHCE lessons and assemblies are further platforms for democracy to be promoted and discussed. Children have an annual questionnaire with which they are able to put forward their views about the school.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country is embedded throughout the school day, in PSHCE lessons and circle time and through school assemblies.

There are rewards for displaying good behaviour as well as modelling kind, thoughtful values to any member of our school family or school visitor.

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.

Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

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 wisely through provision of a safe environment and empowering education.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our PSHE lessons and assemblies.

Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, of ambition and aspiration, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

We have high expectations for behaviour of pupils and staff. Our Christian ethos embeds these values in the fabric of our school and children are taught to respect each other, to be co-operative, to support others and to also understand and accept differences.

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.

Mutual respect is also promoted through PSHCE lessons and assemblies as well as in RE lessons.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Our school is situated in an area which is not greatly culturally diverse; therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Tolerance and understanding of different faiths and beliefs are promoted through our RE syllabus as children learn about different faiths, beliefs, religions and places of worship.

Assemblies are regularly planned to develop children's awareness of different faiths, religions and beliefs either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE, PSHCE and circle time teaching reinforce this.

Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

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