

Promoting British Values

In June 2014, David Cameron emphasised the important role that British values can play in education. Further, how well a school promotes such values is an aspect of Ofsted's inspection process.

We believe that values are integral to the ethos at Westleigh Methodist. We believe that they set the standards of behaviour that we expect in school and help our school community to make the best choice in any situation.

Below are just a few examples of how we promote British values:

Democracy

We encourage children to understand that democracy means allowing our community to have a stake in the decisions that affect them. Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Westleigh Methodist Primary. Democracy is central to how we operate.

How we promote democracy:

- School Council members are elected each year through a process which includes candidates making speeches and children voting anonymously. School Council is made up from a representative from each class in Y1-6.
- Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and respect the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress.

Rules and laws

We encourage children to understand the importance of rules and laws, that they set out how we should and should not behave in society and help to keep our community safe.

How we promote rules and laws:

- The School Council created a set of 'School Golden Rule' that incorporate the values that they see as important to be a good citizen.
- 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. These values are reinforced in different ways:
 - visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
 - during Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about
 - during other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in a sports lesson, for example

Individual liberty

We encourage children to understand that individual liberty means freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs.

We promote individual liberty in all our lessons through all our curriculum areas. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our online safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

We encourage children to understand that mutual respect means treating others the way that you would like to be treated. We are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Mutual respect is at the heart of our school values.

How we promote respect:

- Our children know that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have, and to everything.
- Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community should treat each other with respect.
- Through Religious Education, PSHE and other lessons where we might develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures.