

BRITISH VALUES

This Policy includes the Early Years Foundation Stage and Breakfast, Tea Time and Holiday Clubs.

The Department for Education have 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 and 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 by the Prime Minister this year. At Stretton School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy is richly embedded within the school. Children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Children Questionnaires. Children are also encouraged to voice their thoughts and opinions through circle time and class discussion. They contribute to class rules and Assemblies. The school’s Behaviour Policy involves rewards and sanctions; this is shared through all aspects of school life and also shared with parents and carers.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are within the class or the school are consistently reinforced throughout the school. Children are taught the value of rules and the law and the consequences when these are broken. Staff all prioritise positive reinforcement (through awarding of stickers and House Stars); a system of sanctions is also in place. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Within school all children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We teach and provide boundaries for young children to make choices safely. We encourage them to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and how to exercise these safely. This is also discussed during PSHEE lessons.

Mutual Respect

A love of learning is fostered within an environment in which each child can feel a sense of belonging. Respect is discussed during Assemblies, class discussions and through the School Council. We encourage all children to treat each other with respect and they learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others.

Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs

Children are given opportunities to experience diversity through assemblies, circle time and class discussions. Children learn about different religions through the curriculum during PSHEE and 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.

The school would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including “extremist” views (see Prevent Policy).

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