

Sheerness West Federation West Minster and Rose Street Primary Schools

British Values Statement

At our schools we aim for our children to become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. We promote the basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance with our whole school community.

Democracy

At Both schools we have a School Council which consists of two members from each class who are nominated and voted for by their classmates. They meet every few weeks with the Assistant Head Teacher to discuss a range of issues. These issues include social and moral elements of school life, such as creating codes of conduct for playtimes and modelling positive behaviours for their peers. The areas for discussion are then fed back to the rest of the class where they can all share their views and thoughts. Where decisions need to be made, each class member has a vote to ensure their opinion is heard.

A current topic being debated by the school council with their peers is whether or not we need two separate uniforms or one common uniform to reflect our federation.

Both schools visit the Houses of parliament annually as the guest of our local MP and this enables the children to understand how the British political system operates and they understand the importance of democracy and political debate at first hand.

The Rule of Law

Our School Rules are clearly outlined in our Behaviour Policy, which is also shared with parents and carers. At the beginning of the year class teachers discuss these rules with their pupils and personalize them according to the age and needs of the class. All the adults and children belonging to that class then sign the rules, which are clearly displayed in the classroom. These rules are revisited regularly through PSHE lessons, assemblies and class circle times and there are clear sanctions for broken rules, which every class uses. We ensure that children understand that school and class rules are there to protect us and are essential for our wellbeing and safety. Elements of the History curriculum also enable children to explore the roles of law and authority in the past, for example through studying the Gunpowder Plot, and the great fire of London.

Individual Liberty

We encourage our children to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment to enable them to do this. Through our PSHE lessons we discuss different choices they may make and the consequences of those choices. Children are continually encouraged to make the right choices by all adults working in school and this theme is revisited through a programme of class assemblies and circle times. We encourage independent thinking which encourages the children to reflect on their learning and the choices they have made. The importance of making safe choices when using the Internet is explored regularly through the Computing curriculum and shared with the whole school as part of our annual E-Safety programme.

Mutual Respect

Our whole federation ethos is built around mutual respect. We are inclusive schools where everyone is valued and has a contribution to make to the school. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. The importance of working

together is explored through assemblies and class discussions and examples of children demonstrating these values are celebrated through displays in our corridors and in each classroom.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

All different faiths and beliefs are explored and celebrated through assemblies, RE sessions and a variety of visitors into school. The children are taught that people have different faiths and beliefs and that these should be accepted and celebrated. Children within our school with different faiths are encouraged to share their practices and special celebrations. Our English curriculum includes texts from a range of cultures to further raise children's awareness of different cultures, faiths and beliefs. We also explore different cultural practices through geography, music and art.