British values at Dormers Wells Junior School

At Dormers Wells Junior School, we actively 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 as part of pupils’ SMSC development. These values are promoted in the following ways:

**Democracy**

- Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a school council that meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council is able to genuinely effect change within the school and also provides children with experience of democratic processes.
- School council representatives for each class are voted for by their class peers.
- The school council regularly consults pupils through questionnaires.
- Children also have the opportunity to put forward their views about the school frequently to teachers and governors.
- The year 6 children elect a Head Boy and Head Girl and two deputies.
- Election of the Head Boy and Girl follow hustings where candidates set out their manifesto to the pupils in Year 6.
- Year 6 pupils also elect 12 prefects who have responsibility for monitoring behaviour in and around the school. They supervise children during wet playtimes and are role models for younger pupils. The prefects are ambassadors for the school and represent year 6 at events such as Governor Day.

**The rule of law**

- Children learn what is right and wrong through classroom and whole school rules. The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies.
• We have weekly awards for politeness, considerate behaviour, positive attitude and good work and for championing the school’s learning values (merit assemblies).
• Assemblies are delivered that focus on British values and explain what these values are.
• Anti-bullying week and continued work across the year reinforces the message about living together within a set of rules.
• 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 the police and community support officers help reinforce these messages.

Individual liberty
• 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.
• Children are also encouraged to develop safe and positive choices at school, for example through learning about e-safety.
• Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these responsibly.
• Children are encouraged to make the right decisions about their behaviour in class and around school, and to take responsibility for their actions.
• Children in upper key stage 2 study texts that focus on slavery and apartheid. Big issues are openly debated and children have a highly developed awareness and appreciation of the freedoms they enjoy.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs
• At Dormers Wells we ensure that children develop the attitudes and skills they need to be comfortable in a culturally diverse city. Promoting respect for difference and diversity is at the heart of the school’s ethos and values.
• We emphasise that all members of the school community, pupils, teachers and other adults, and parents should treat each other with respect and courtesy.
• All prejudice-related incidents are reported and acted upon immediately through the appropriate channels.
• Assemblies include stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE & PSHE curriculum reinforces children’s appreciation and positive attitudes towards different beliefs. A range of resources and approaches are used to enhance the learning about different faiths and beliefs. Assemblies and discussions involving those about prejudices are a part of the schedule and are followed up by RE and PSHE lessons.
• Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.
• Our RE curriculum provides opportunities to learn about a wide range of different faiths and beliefs.
• Celebrations of religious festivals throughout the year support children to appreciate the similarities as well as the differences between different beliefs.