



British Values Statement

Updated: February 2024

Walmley Junior School has a long tradition of promoting British Values across the curriculum, as part of the daily life of our school. Respect, democracy, and liberty are integral to our vision and ethos. These values are taught explicitly in the curriculum through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE) and Religious Education and through a broad and balanced curriculum, including opportunities to explore and develop these principles. They are reflected in our Walmley Junior School Values, in particular: respect, kindness, generosity and politeness. As a Rights Respecting school (Silver award), our pupils learn that their actions have an effect on their own rights and the rights of others.

Walmley Junior School takes opportunities to regularly promote British Values through acts of collective worship, merit assembly, and through whole school systems and structures. Below are just a few examples of how British Values are promoted and regularly reinforced.

Democracy

Pupils at Walmley Junior School have many opportunities to have their voices heard. We have an Eco-Council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in classes. Councillors apply for the role and are elected by their classmates at the start of the year to represent their views at council meetings. The Eco-Council has its own budget and is able to genuinely effect change in the school, for example with initiatives to reduce waste and further improve wildlife habitats with the introduction of bug houses and a hedgerow of native plant species.

Members of the Online Safety Council are also peer-elected. Pupils are given ownership to choose articles from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that they feel are relevant to their class when creating their own class charter.

Pupils in Year 6 visit London and can see the home of the British Government and our democracy (e.g. 10 Downing Street, Houses of Parliament).

The views and opinions of Walmley Junior children are actively sought through 'Pupil Voice' focus groups and on an individual basis, by governors, the Senior Leadership Team. Any issues which do arise are acted upon.

The Rule of Law

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern the class, school or the country are consistently reinforced throughout the regular school day. Pupils are taught the value and reason behind the laws that 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, and educational visits such as Safeside, help reinforce this message. Our Junior PCSOs help keep our community safe by monitoring parking and the use of local roads.

Our system of behaviour is aligned to an agreed set of values. Should the opportunity arise, children are asked to identify which value they have not considered, to ensure that a connection is made and understood. To encourage and promote good behaviour, attitude and work, we have a reward system which is followed throughout school. Merit assemblies celebrate individual achievement both inside and outside school. Good behaviour is celebrated as a whole school in merit assemblies at the end of every half term.

Individual Liberty

Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices at our school, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment and have equal opportunity irrespective of gender, race or faith. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an exciting curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to do this safely; for example, through our Online Safety, PSHE teaching and our Rights Respecting Schools Award. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, whether it is through choice of learning challenge, how to record learning, or participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs. Pupil Voice ensures that all groups, including SEND and Disadvantaged, are heard and can contribute to their curriculum.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Mutual respect is an integral part of our Walmley Values and is modelled by staff and pupils alike. Children learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own school experience and that of others.

Pupils are encouraged to understand that some people in our society are not as fortunate others, or may experience hardship as a consequence of political events or natural disasters, where the Rights of the Child are not fulfilled. Pupils are encouraged to help others through a variety of charity fundraising events.

Walmley Junior School serves an area which is culturally diverse and we are proud to promote and celebrate our different beliefs and backgrounds. Pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs is developed in:

- Religious Education
- Educational visits to places of worship important to different faiths
- PSHE
- Whole school assemblies which promote diversity, either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures
- Lessons such as geography, art and music where pupils consider cultures from other parts of the world.
- Displays around school

Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

As well as actively promoting British Values, the opposite also applies; we would actively challenge pupils, staff, governors or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist views'.