

British Values & the Prevention of Radicalisation

BRITISH VALUES

The Department of 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 John Wilkinson Primary school these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

At John Wilkinson Primary School democracy is taken very seriously. Children are actively encouraged to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly. Our active **school council** is one such example. Every September we have elections resulting in a fair ballot. The children enjoy this and respect the outcomes. The school council representatives (2 per class from Reception to Year 6) then meet regularly and take the ideas from the meeting back to their classes for discussion. They offer a child's perspective on school decisions and on forums such as the stay safe group.

Other examples include development of a **class charter**. This sets ground rules for classroom conduct and establishes the standards of behaviour children can expect from each other over the year ahead. All children also complete an annual questionnaire which provides them with the opportunity to share their views of learning at our school and suggest ways in which the school could be improved further.

Governors also begun to meet with children to establish their views as a way of ensuring that school self-evaluation is robust and accurate. They take children's views into account when planning and this was really helpful when developing the curriculum.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Children 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. Our schools rules, and high expectations of conduct are evident throughout the school and we often have visitors telling us that children behave well and ready for learning. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Within school, children are actively encouraged to make decisions and choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young children to take risks and make choices safely. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge,

how they record their learning, participation in one of our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, children are given the freedom to make choices and make decisions.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values and is promoted through the way we interact with one and other. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. We often talk to children about making good choices and this is central to work to ensure children know that we must respect all members of the school and extended community.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

John Wilkinson Primary School is situated in an area which is not culturally diverse, therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce this. Each year the children explore world faiths alongside their learning about Christianity. By the time they leave us all children have learnt about the beliefs and practices of people of the following world faiths; Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

At John Wilkinson Primary School we will actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including those expressing 'extremist' views.

We have audited our response to BRITISH VALUES and have begun to record examples of good practice on our SMSC, PSHE and British values tracking system. Governors have been made aware of this through our governors meetings.

PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views. The Governing Body of John Wilkinson Primary School has a **zero tolerance** approach to extremist behaviour for all school community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our children protects them from exposure to negative influences.

John Wilkinson Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. At John Wilkinson Primary School all staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

- Children are encouraged to adopt and live out our Core Values. These complement the key "British Values" of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living. They are detailed in our PSHE programme but also form part of a thread throughout our planning and provision on a termly basis.

- Children are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through the SEAL (Social, emotional aspects of learning) assemblies and through the elected School Council members
- Children are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet and new technology.
- Children participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background.
- Children's wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and extra-curricular learning opportunities.
- Children are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The RE (Religious Education), PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) and Values based education is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of our school. Children learn about all major faiths and visit or explore places of worship. They are also taught about how to stay safe when using the internet.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at John Wilkinson Primary School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the Child Protection/ Safeguarding Lead Teachers who have completed training on PREVENT.