

British Values Statement

At Millfields First School we are committed to serving our community. We recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand the vital role we have in ensuring that groups or individuals within our school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

We follow equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status. Millfields First School is dedicated to preparing our pupils for their adult life beyond the formal curriculum, ensuring that we promote and reinforce the five British values to all of our pupils.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five British Values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Millfields First School we use strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for our pupils. The examples that follow, show some of the many ways Millfields First School seeks to instil British Values.

Democracy
<p>At the beginning of each academic year, pupils elect School Councillors, Eco Councillors, Sports Crew members and Digital Leaders to represent their class. Those interested in taking on the role of councillor put forward a pitch of what qualities they can offer and how they would develop their role. A vote is then taken to elect the successful candidates. School Councillors help to make decisions within the wider school context, for example suggesting fund raising events, meeting with Governors, interviewing candidates for teaching and staffing positions and helping to improve the school environment. Eco Councillors consider how the school can be more 'eco-friendly' by saving energy and resources. Eco Councillors take a wider viewpoint with respect to how to develop sustainability locally, nationally and globally. Digital Leaders explore the potential for new technology to develop learning across the school and also communicate the necessity for on-line safety to all pupils. Sports Crew members work alongside the PE Co-ordinator to advocate a healthy, fit and active lifestyle for all pupils. Pupils are encouraged to take part in a range of sports and physical activities, including after school clubs. There are also many inter-school events for children to participate in across the school.</p>

Each Council meets fortnightly to discuss ideas and suggestions and to put forward the views of the class which they are representing. Councillors are set a task to complete with their class.

At the beginning of each term, pupils volunteer to become Play Leaders. Their role is to lead play time games at break and lunch times, ensuring pupils have a safe and happy break and that behaviour is good on the playground. Play Leaders help the younger pupils to develop communication and social skills. At the same time, Play Leaders develop their own social skills, making leadership decisions and then communicating these effectively.

Each term, a member of the school Governing Body and the SMSC Co-ordinator hold pupil interviews to ask questions related to the five British Values and SMSC provision within the curriculum. Pupils are selected to take part in these interviews from the councils, as well as other pupils from within the school.

The rule of law

At the beginning of the academic year, pupils discuss and devise their own set of rules and values which they wish to uphold in the classroom and across the wider school context.

The school has a set of rules that apply to each pupil and these are modelled and communicated by staff and pupils throughout the school day. The school has various reward systems for good behaviour. These include Dojo points which pupils can collect individually and as a class. Parents also have access to their child's Dojo account, so that they can monitor their child's progress in school. In each class there is also a class ladder, where pupils can climb a step each day. Early Years, Reception and KS1 have a treasure chest theme and Key Stage 2 pupils have a space theme. If a pupil's behaviour doesn't meet expectations, there is the opportunity to come away from the ladder and rectify the behaviour before re-joining the class. Millfields First School has a set of values and attitudes that are on display and referred to throughout the school day. There is also a code of conduct of 'the three R's' – respect, responsibility and relationships. Pupils can articulate what these mean and how they can demonstrate each of the three Rs in school and within the community.

Through appropriately themed assemblies, pupils are taught a wide range of values that encourage them to distinguish between right and wrong and to make good decisions. Community leaders, including the local Minister, meet with pupils to discuss how positive and negative actions or behaviour impact on the local community. Displays around the school and the general ethos of the school, encourage pupils to make good decisions, behave well and follow the school rules. Each week a celebration assembly takes place, where children are individually rewarded for excellent behaviour and outstanding work.

Individual liberty

Pupils are actively encouraged to converse and engage with one another. During lessons, pupils are able to lead their own learning discussing ideas and possibilities, posing questions and challenging opinions. At Forest School pupils have the opportunity to choose focused learning activities and who they wish to work with within a group. School Councillors are encouraged to voice the opinions of other pupils in the school and their voice is heard by Senior Leaders. An anti-bullying policy is in place and any incidents of bullying behaviour, which are rare, are dealt with swiftly by Senior Leaders. The school culture is one of 'every child counts, every moment matters', this is reflected in the relationships that children have with one another, regardless of age or ability.

Mutual respect

Pupils have been noted to have “exemplary manners” by visitors to the school. During school trips, members of the public regularly comment on the high quality behaviour and excellent manners of our pupils. Pupils naturally hold doors open for each other and the adults in school and consistently say “please” and “thank you” at all times during the school day. Pupils listen to each other within lessons and respect each others ideas and opinions. Pupils are aware of who the leaders are within school and treat them respectfully (including pupils in a leadership role, such as Councillors and Play Leaders). Pupils are able to define what respect means and give examples of how they demonstrate this at school. The curriculum supports pupils understanding of respect through assemblies and through the SMSC content within half termly topics. Adults model expectations for pupils through their own conduct and in the way they address each other and the pupils themselves. Pupils are able to discuss how disrespecting someone has a negative impact and this is evident through comments recorded in pupil interviews. Pupils have the opportunity at different points in the year to meet and work with pupils from other schools. At all times pupils from each school have treated each other respectfully and have engaged with one another with patience and understanding.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The curriculum is designed to include aspects of different cultures and faiths throughout the year. The school follows the Worcestershire RE syllabus, providing pupils within half termly topics opportunities to explore the fundamental beliefs and values of other faiths. Pupils visit local churches at regular times throughout the year to take part in Christian celebrations and to learn more about the Christian faith. All pupils have worked with the local Minister, with Key stage 2 pupils visiting the Baptist Church at Christmas time. The minister also visits the school regularly to deliver assemblies and to work with the pupils further developing an understanding of Christian beliefs and the role of the church within the community. Millfields continues to have strong links with the Bromsgrove’s community church, St Johns Church.

Each year group has the opportunity to visit a place of worship from a faith other than Christianity. This gives pupils the opportunity to develop their understanding of other faiths and cultures and how these form the national community in which we live.

During the annual dance festival, pupils explore music and dance from other cultures around the World. They interpret ideas to choreograph a class dance for performance. This is often shared in the wider community, performing for other schools.