

Promoting Fundamental British Values at Leeming

Introduction

Our school values: "we care, we respect, we do our best" are fundamental to our overall vision of inspiring excellence for all. We believe that by living out these values, and teaching our children to do so, we are raising up citizens of the future who will make a powerful contribution to society.

Our values also align perfectly to the four 'Fundamental British Values', as defined by the government (Democracy, Rule of law, Individual liberty, and Mutual Respect & Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs). These have been drawn up to reflect what it means to be British, and we believe it is important to impart these values to our children.

We teach specific Citizenship lessons and cover these values within those sessions. However, arguably more powerful than discrete lessons is the way in which values are embedded within our day to day activities.

Below are some examples of how we actively promote the Fundamental British Values at Leeming.

Democracy

UN CRC Article 12: "Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account."

Democracy is key to the children's understanding of others and their rights in society. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen to each other - thus respecting the rights of others by allowing opinions and voices to be heard.

Each year the children in each class decide upon class rules and responsibilities to follow throughout the school year.

School council members are elected by the children in KS1 and KS2. The school council meet regularly and provide pupils' voice and contribute to school improvement through undertaking surveys and offering suggestions.

KS2 children vote for a 'bird of the week', recognising their peers' achievements and successes in living out our school values.

Other positions of responsibility are also elected such as House Captains, Sports Captains etc., and democracy in action is a regular feature of class provision.

The Rule of Law

UN CRC Article 19: "Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them."

The importance of laws (whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country) are consistently reinforced at RAF Leeming Community Primary School. From an early age all pupils are taught the school values, these ensure that every child is able to learn in a safe environment.

The school follows a clear behaviour policy, these are communicated clearly across the school. Older children are given key responsibilities, helping to enforce the rules of the school and look after the younger children. Children in each class are given a variety of responsibilities and are encouraged to take care of their environment and to be independent.

Assemblies, circle time and getting along together (SEAL) helps children understand how to earn trust and respect, to know right from wrong and how to do the right thing, even when it is difficult.

Throughout the school all of our children are encouraged to follow safety rules, especially in Science, DT and Computing, E-safety is regularly reinforced to children (at an age appropriate level) and parents, as are laws and guidance on the use and misuse of social media.

The Year 6 children are given the opportunity to be taught safer cycling in the through the 'Bikeability' programme, covering the laws of the road and highway code. This also provides them with the skills so that they are able to cycle to school in the warmer months.

Older pupils take part each year in 'Crucial Crew' – a full day of learning about emergency services and safety, with a strong emphasis on the rule of law. A session is even given over to a 'mock trial' in front of a real magistrate who examines the pupils according to a fictional crime. Younger pupils have visits from the police (civilian and military) who talk with them about their role in keeping the country safe, and enforcing the law of the land.

Individual Liberty

UN CRC Article 31: "All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities"

UN CRC Article 15: "Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights"

At RAF Leeming, pupils are encouraged to make choices and take risks, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries within which children can make choices safely through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education.

In Reception and Year 1, children are encouraged to be independent through the continuous provision areas. Pupils have an individual voice in their development through choosing how they are going to learn. The play-based curriculum and the child's interests provides the independence which is nurtured and enhanced throughout the school promoting a love of learning. Throughout the school all pupils are encouraged to be responsible learners and challenge themselves with all aspects of their learning.

The PHSCE curriculum educated children about making informed choices about their lifestyle, rights and responsibilities. Our pupils have access to regular circle times where they have an opportunity to express their opinions, discuss any issues and also reinforce the values of the school.

Our pastoral mentor helps particularly vulnerable pupils to work through sensitive issues or concerns they might have, always placing a strong emphasis on their individual choices and how they are free to shape their futures – inspiring them with an aspirational outlook.

The school is also developing an 'Emotional First Aid' programme, which again helps all pupils to explore their feelings and their right to experience a variety of emotions; this helps them realise that to feel differently to their peers is legitimate, and it is the exercise of these feelings that needs to be considered.

We also provide many different ways for children to learn; drama, collaborative, scenario work, problem solving, physical tasks etc. – recognising that individuals all have their unique learning styles and that these need to be fostered and encouraged.

Pupils are given the freedom to exercise liberty independently in an age appropriate way, for example being allowed to do jobs or tasks which involve them moving around school alone, or self-selecting responsibilities and approaches.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with Different Faiths or Beliefs

UN CRC Article 2: "The convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from."

UN CRC Article 30: "Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not."

UN CRC Article 14: "Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters."

Respect is one of the core values of our school, 'we respect'; it is deeply embedded in all we do. Staff and pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have. The core value is underpinned in all our activities, in and out of the classroom.

Our pupils learn respect for each other through the PSHCE curriculum and the daily ethos of the school. Within the SEAL programme the children are taught to respect each other, to be cooperative and collaborative, to be supportive and look for similarities whilst also being appreciative and understanding the importance of differences.

At RAF Leeming our KS2 pupils are each members of a house; Nidderdale, Swaledale, Coverdale and Wensleydale - they earn merits for demonstrating our values, and for great academic work. The team with the most points wins the house championship; through this system, there is a level of 'competition' and difference between houses, but in a climate of respect.

Each week, teachers select a Worker of the Week which is celebrated alongside Bird of the week, and individual achievements, both inside and outside of school in a weekly assembly. The highest award in the school is the 'Always' badge – for children who always model all our values, and give their all.

We also constantly reiterate the importance of tolerance for those who have different faiths and beliefs. RAF Leeming enhances pupils' understanding of different faiths and beliefs through Religious Education studies and PSHCE work. Beliefs, traditions and customs are studied and our school welcomes visitors who help and enrich our pupil's knowledge, extending understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. Assemblies, whilst broadly Christian in character, also celebrate the faiths of others, including Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism. We also have fortnightly visits from a local church Children and School's worker, as well as our pupils attending the church on camp for festivals such as Christmas and Harvest. Celebrations and festivals from a variety of faiths (e.g. Diwali) are also included in assembly.

Other Sources of Information

For more information, please see the following:

- DfE Guidance on FBV:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC):
<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>