

British Values

In June 2014, David Cameron emphasised the role that British values play in education. How well a school promotes such values is also part of the Ofsted school inspection process. Ofsted defines fundamental British values as “democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs”.

At Halifax, British values are promoted in much of what we do; during assemblies, Religious Education (RE) lessons, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons and through our use of the International Primary Curriculum. The curriculum at Halifax aims to broaden and enrich children’s learning through a creative approach enhanced by visits, trips and first-hand experience. Our pupils are encouraged to work independently, develop skills of research, investigation and problem-solving, building up a positive sense of themselves as a learner.

As well as actively promoting British values, the opposite also applies. We actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions that are contrary to fundamental values including “extremist” views.

Being Part of Britain

We celebrate a pattern of traditions and festivals across the year e.g. Remembrance Day, Easter, Shrove Tuesday, Summer Fete, a range of Christmas celebrations including a KS1 Nativity, a pantomime visit, Stir up Sunday & making Christmas Puddings, and a Nine Lessons and Carols evening.

Our curriculum includes a wide range of trips and visits including:

The local library

The local allotments and community garden

The seaside

African Adventure

3 days in London visiting key sights and museums, including The Houses of Parliament, Downing Street, The Cenotaph, Trafalgar Square, The London Eye, and sleeping on HMS Belfast

A week in North Norfolk, looking at environmental issues and coastal erosion

Democracy

Democracy is at the centre of our school values and involves all stakeholders. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and through pupil perception interviews carried out by subject leaders, senior staff and governors. School council representatives are elected in a secret ballot. The School

Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. The School Council has its own budget and is able to effect change within the school.

Parents, Governors and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. Some examples include through regular open mornings and afternoons, parent questionnaires, Governor surveys, and formal parents consultations.

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of their own learning and progress, as well as their own behaviour. This encourages a sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

Rules and Laws

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our country or school are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assembly and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses the school rules and classroom routines, principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.

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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

during Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about
visits from authorities such as the police and fire services

during other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in sports and swimming lessons for example.

The children have the opportunity to learn more about how laws are made and passed through taking part in the 'Lights, Camera, Parliament!' competition, and when visiting the Houses of Parliament on the Year 5 residential trip.

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment, we provide sensible boundaries within which our children can make choices for themselves. All adults within our school community pro-actively build trusting, respectful relationships with all children to boost self-esteem and enable children to confidently make good choices.

Some of the situations in which children will make their own choices:

- Which level of challenge to tackle
- How best to record their learning
- Participation in extra-curricular activities

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Halifax Primary serves an area which is culturally diverse, and we are proud to celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Tolerance, politeness and mutual respect are at the heart of our ethos and values.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and everything, whatever differences we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect.

The children develop understanding of the richness and diversity of differing cultures through:

- RE – the beliefs, festivals and celebrations of Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam. As part of their learning pupils make visits to local places of worship for each of the religions studied.
- Celebrating cultural differences through assemblies, eg Black History Month, themed weeks, displays
- SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) – our response to people and situations
- PSHE – understanding community
- English fiction and non-fiction texts

Whilst instances contrary to our values are relatively rare, no school can guarantee that such instances will never occur. Each is treated seriously, in line with our policies and expectations.