



British Values at Abacus Primary School

British Values are promoted in a wide variety of ways at Abacus Primary School.

Below are just some aspects of school life that enable children to get a sense of these values.

Democracy

We have a School Council where each class is represented by two class councillors in Year 2 to Year 6 from the autumn term, and Foundation Stage and Year 1 from the spring term each year. Regular school council meetings provide a way for children's voices to be heard and for their opinions to influence important decisions made in the school. Our House Captains are elected solely on pupil's votes.

In turn, Pupil Council representatives hold Class Council meetings where their peers can discuss key elements of school life including those issues they wish to be raised in School Council meetings. In the past, they have visited the Houses of Parliament to develop their understanding of democracy and we are seeking further opportunities to do so again.



Subject Leaders carry out regular pupil perception questionnaires, giving pupils an opportunity to air their opinions and as part of our PSHE lessons children have the opportunity to share their opinions on different matters and take part in circle time sessions. Our Years 5 and 6 pupils have the opportunity to take part in debating sessions as part of their class curriculum.

We hold debating sessions in key stage 2 and are developing use of Kagan Structures throughout the school to promote pupil engagement and the right to have everyone's opinion heard. Some of our SEN pupils were an active part in our SEND Review this year and presented their views of our school and we promote pupil voice and involvement in processes across the school. In addition, we have access to Picture News for debating opportunities and Picture News at Home.

The Rule of Law

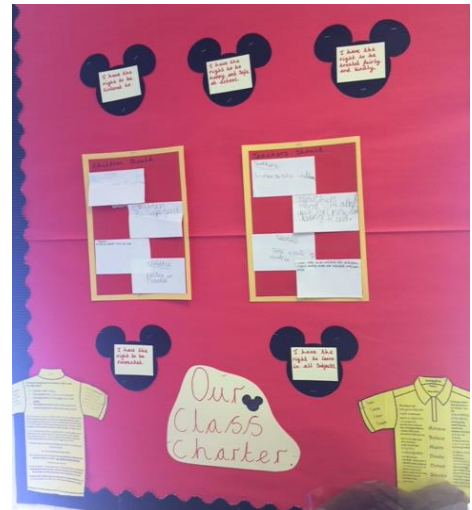
The importance of laws and rules is taught throughout the curriculum. These laws and rules that support class, school or country are reinforced through learning in PSHE, through regular assemblies and whole school days. Children are given opportunities to carry out a number of roles of responsibility across the school.

Our children understand that actions have consequences and it is their responsibility to behave in the right way and to make the right choices. We therefore have a clear and fair behaviour policy that enables children to put right any inappropriate choices, and to celebrate when children do make the right choice as well. Visits from the local fire service also help to reinforce these messages, and behaviour expectations were developed to include remote learning opportunities via Zoom during the pandemic.

All classes have a class charter where they agree the rights of pupils and adults within the class and general expectations; these are displayed within classrooms.

Upon entering Abacus Primary School, children and parents sign home/school and e-safety agreements which set out the expectations for pupils' learning and behaviour. All pupils at Abacus Primary School take part in safer Internet day each February and e-safety is a regular feature on all school newsletters and on display in our entrance area.

Children in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to be taught how to safely ride a cycle, ensuring that they follow the rules of the road, through the Bikeability programme. Basildon Council support us in delivering road safety sessions, learning to ride a bike sessions and cycle safety across the whole of Key stage 2.



Individual Liberty

We believe that everyone is entitled to a voice Children are taught about rights and responsibilities in our PSHE curriculum and also as part of our assembly programme. Children are given opportunities to express themselves through regular arts, music and dance sessions as well as discussions in our weekly whole school assemblies focused on current affairs issues (Picture News- e.g. should we give money to the homeless? Should we help people who we do not know in the street?)

Children are given opportunities to carry out a number of roles of responsibility across the school and children's achievements are celebrated in assemblies which instil in them a sense of worth and create ambitious pupils who believe in themselves and their self-worth. Out of school achievements are celebrated and communicated on newsletters and in assemblies as well.

Children are taught about making 'good' choices and have a full understanding that they are the ones that make choices about how they act, whether those choices are well made or not.

They have a number of extra-curricular activities that they can choose to be part of. Children can take on roles and responsibilities which help to make the school function well. They apply for the roles and so freely choose the way they will contribute to our community.

Children at Abacus Primary School know their boundaries and are encouraged to make choices safely. They are not afraid to ask or answer questions and will happily stand up for what they believe in. Lessons regularly provide opportunities for children to work in groups. They are happy to agree and disagree with their peers and give reasons why.

Years 5 and 6 take part in debates within their Literacy lessons and Kagan Structures are used across the school which actively engage every pupil to contribute to discussions and express their views in a supportive atmosphere.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance:

Respect is one of the core values of our school. Children are taught to respect others regardless of their individual differences. Bullying of any kind is not tolerated and our Anti Bullying Ambassadors promote this across the school.

Our class charters promote mutual respect and tolerance and help children to understand how they are expected to contribute to this.

We take part in Anti Bullying week and hold assemblies that celebrate difference and other cultures. These help to build understanding of different people and their belief systems which may hold both similarities and differences to our own. We also have a central display celebrating a range of differences and how those with disabilities can achieve success and make a positive contribution to our society.

As a school we also take part in a number of national events, including Macmillan coffee mornings and charity days such as Red Nose Day and NSPCC Number Day.

Our Wellbeing Mentor is on the playground every lunch time to support any friendship issues.

Some pupils carry out the role of 'Activity Leader' at lunchtimes where they help to organise activities with other pupils to enable them to have enjoyable playtimes. This fosters a mutual respect between all parties across a range of ages.

Children at Abacus Primary School are allocated a house on arrival. Each year, the house captains and Vice Captains choose a charity which they raise money for. This supports children in developing a respect for others whilst also supporting the development of their role as active citizens in the wider society. This is supplemented by our developing links with Silvana Court, a local care home, and residents greatly appreciate the letters and gifts sent by children, and opportunities to join in celebrations with them.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

This is promoted through every aspect of school life. PSHE and RE lessons equip children with an understanding of different faiths and beliefs and the values which different religions hold. Children are taught to respect each other and welcome differences and learn from them.

These lessons are supported by regular assemblies, visitors in, virtual visits and physical visits to learn about different faiths. This includes our local vicars who visit the school and deliver regular assemblies.

Our school kitchen provides a range of theme meals throughout the school year to celebrate different traditions including Chinese New Year, Mother's day, Father's day, and Christmas. Our Anti-bullying policy supports children learning to celebrate differences and work together.

Our English Leader promotes a book of the month as part of our reading curriculum which celebrates diversity across the world. Classes follow current affairs through Picture News and Newsround ensuring they are aware of what is happening in the local and wider area. Teaching staff have all received RSE Training linked to recent updates to the curriculum.

(Updated October 2021.)



