



British Values at Lewannick CP School

The DfE 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 were reiterated in 2014.

At Lewannick Primary School these values have always been fundamental to the teaching and learning our pupils receive. They are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

- Our children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a thriving School Council which meets weekly to discuss issues raised in each class and to actively promote pupil voice within the school. The School Council has its own budget and is able to genuinely effect change within the school. The School Council Committee members as well as representatives for each year group are voted in by their fellow pupils. The high quality work of our School Council has consistently been recognised through them being awarded PADL (Promoting Active Democracy Loudly) Bronze, Silver, Gold and now, Platinum status. Governors are also actively involved in the work of the School Council through attending meetings and receiving regular reports at Governor’s meetings.
- For the last 10 years, Year 6 pupils have visited the Houses of Parliament to learn about the workings of Government and to experience life in Westminster. They have attended Prime Minister’s Question Time, observed both the Houses of Commons and Lords in sitting and learnt about the rich history of the Palace of Westminster. They also take part in workshops, such as *Making Laws*, which develops their understanding of democracy. Significantly, they always receive a visit from our local MP, who discusses relevant issues and concerns with them.
- Annually, we arrange for our local MP to visit school, discuss their role and reinforce the importance of democracy and freedom of speech.
- School Council attended *Parliament Week* event at Plymouth City Council’s Chamber of Commerce in November 2014.
- Annual pupil questionnaires are completed to gather pupil viewpoints and suggestions.
- All Pupils vote for a charity of choice to support during the year, e.g. Cornwall Air Ambulance.

- All Pupils agree on *Lunchtime Rules*, *Playground Rules* and their *Class Golden Rules*, at the start of each year.

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 regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Daily awards (hard work/achievement trophies) recognise pupil achievements and similarly pupils are held to account for any behaviour that falls below the standards expected by the school. The school's behaviour policy promotes reward for those who follow school rules (Golden certificates/Golden Time) and details the sanctions for those who don't (yellow and red cards/missed golden time).
- The importance of obeying rules/laws is reinforced during Year 6's visit to the Houses of Parliament.
- 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.
- Visits from our MP and authorities such as the Police, Fire Service and RNLI Lifeguards, help reinforce this message.
- Our Computer Cops and JRSO (Junior Road Safety Officers) pupil groups promote the importance of obeying laws and lead assemblies and awareness campaigns.

Individual Liberty

- Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education.
- Pupils 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 is through choice of learning challenge (e.g. Y5/6 project work), of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

- As a *Department for International Development* Global Learning Expert Centre, we actively use a *Critical Thinking* model to develop and ensure mutual respect is at the heart of our pupils' values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. Through this method, or Circle Time in KS1, all members of the school community treat each other with respect.

- Since 2006, the school has actively participated in British Council funded *Comenius Projects*. These projects have allowed our pupils to engage, communicate and collaborate with their peers from other countries across Europe. Our Year 6 pupils have travelled to Gothenburg in Sweden, Schonau in Germany, Las Palmas in Gran Canaria and Ljubljana in Slovenia, to meet with fellow pupils from our partner schools. We have also hosted pupils and teachers from partner schools as part of these projects.

Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs

- Lewannick is situated in an area which is not greatly 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, PSHE and SMSC curriculum and learning opportunities reinforce this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.
- Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. These include Exeter Synagogue, Exeter and Truro Cathedrals and Plymouth Mosque. We also have strong links with St. Martins Church, in Lewannick. All classes make regular visits for events such as *Experience Harvest*, as well as to hold annual performances, such as our Christmas Carol Concert.