

# Merrydale Infant School



## Merrydale Infant School British Values statement

'We encourage pupils to respect the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and understanding of those with different faiths and beliefs. We ensure that partisan political views are not promoted in the teaching of any subject in the school and where political issues are brought to the attention of the pupils, reasonably practicable steps will be taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views to pupils.'

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 have been reiterated this year (2014). At Merrydale Infant School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

Each year the children decide upon their class rules. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the rules. We have a school council which meets regularly with the School Council coordinator and sometimes SLT to discuss issues raised

in class. The council has some control over budget and is genuinely able to effect change within the school. Every child on the student council is voted in by their class. Children have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school.

## The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Merrydale. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. Most classrooms have a behaviour chart/ system and the children understand the consequences and benefits of following that system.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws - that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and at an appropriate level, the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from organisations such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message. The Police spend time with our children during termly assemblies the need to stay safe during festivals like bonfire night and the impact of antisocial behaviour e.g. during Halloween. Furthermore they involve the children in discussions on safety issues e.g. seat belt safety, stranger danger and the safe use of household objects.

Our children meet our PCSOs regularly e.g. during celebrations like our Spring Sing or by helping Father Christmas deliver his presents during the Christmas parties. Our children experience the neighborhood support element of the police force. They are reminded that the law is there to protect us and that our police force is there to help us. This is again reinforced in our Foundation 2 curriculum where the police and local community workers are involved in our 'people who help us' topic.



Our agreed school rules are in every classroom



The Sunshine class have been learning about being kind and helpful to others.

### Individual Liberty

At Merrydale, 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 informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our half termly eSafety and regular PSHE lessons. They also understand that with rights come responsibilities.



We remember those who fought for our freedom



The children learn about e-safety and how to use 'Avatars'

## Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect. Twice a week our Collective Worship carry a PHSE theme e.g **Managing my feelings**, I can feel proud on behalf of my friends when they have done something well or **Understanding my feelings**, I understand that being unkind and hurting someone doesn't make me feel better.

## Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

At Merrydale we actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. The collective worship program includes many festivals in world religions including Vaisakhi, Diwali, Easter and Ramadan. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. As a school we work closely with families from different faiths in order to ensure that all children are included.





The children in our Nursey learn about differences and similarities between people.



Year 2 look at how the passengers felt on the arrival to the UK of HMS Empire in 1948 during their work on Jamaica.