



Promoting British Values at Tavistock Infant School

The Department for Education has 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 are revisited every year through assemblies and work in class.

At Tavistock these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Tavistock is a UNICEF Rights Respecting school. Each year the children decide upon their class charter and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the charter.

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a school council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. Three council members for each year group are voted in by their class.

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. 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.

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 RRR and SEAL/ PSHE lessons.

Mutual Respect

As a Rights Respecting School, mutual respect is at the heart of our ethos of Achieving Happily Together. 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.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Tavistock is situated in an area which is not greatly culturally diverse; therefore we place an emphasis on the children's understanding and appreciation of diversity. Assemblies are planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures.

Our RE (Religious Education), PHSE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and RRR (Rights Respect and Responsibilities) teaching reinforce this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

At Tavistock we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views. Our Equality Policy is integral to all we do in our school.