

British Values at St. Keyna Primary School

“At St Keyna, British values link to our Ammonite code. We include everyone as discrimination is not right!” Ella, Y6

“British values are about being respectful, thoughtful and not about judging people.” Grace Y6

The DFE have stipulated 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 of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

At St. Keyna, we take this responsibility very seriously and believe it is an inherent part of our duty to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain. As such, these beliefs are encompassed within our school values, which include a strong focus on respect and being a positive citizen. The emphasis on British values is evident throughout our curriculum but particularly in Religious Education and PSHE, in which children can develop their understanding. We make sure our pupils are exposed to a wide range of experiences beyond their own community; not just through school visits, but cultural experiences such as French days and country topics. These experiences enable children to embrace difference and celebrate commonality between peoples whilst developing a sense of belonging to a nation.

Democracy:

“Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people.”
Abraham Lincoln, former US President

“Democracy is about government and the people’s say in how they would like to mould the world into a better place.” Jacob, Year 5

At St. Keyna Primary School, we listen to the views of our young people through a variety of means, including:

- Pupil surveys,
- Circle time,
- Opportunities to vote on issues as a class, year group or whole school,
- A thriving School Council elected by children,
- A thriving E-team (equalities team) who organise our Free2BMe week,
- House Captains and vice-captains to represent each of the four school houses,
- A strong emphasis on teamwork and debating where children are encouraged to express their views clearly and listen to the views of others respectfully,
- Children take the initiative in events such as fund-raising and charitable appeals and organising events such as our anti-bullying week.

There is also a strong focus on rights throughout our PHSE curriculum.

The Rule of Law

“Two things form the bedrock of any open society – freedom of expression and rule of law. If you don’t have those things, you don’t have a free country.”
Salman Rushdie, (Author)

“Without the rule of law, this country would be chaos. Everybody would be afraid of the outside world; would you want to live like this? People would be alone, every human for themselves; it would feel like we were in a horror movie.” Louis, Y6

“The rule of law helps us and allows us to feel safe and to have our freedom. Without the rule of law we would feel scared of being harassed or hurt.” Luseld, Sophia, Evie and Laura

Since the school was founded in 2007 the values of inclusion and equality have been at the heart of all school development. The Ammonite Code, The St Keyna Standard and the St Keyna Skills promote the well-being of the individual and the school as a whole. Each class reinforces these values and they are a central part of the school ethos. They include being kind, helpful, fair and polite to everyone in our school.

The school has a positive behaviour policy that sets out rewards and sanctions. We encourage children to recognise rights and how these go hand in hand with responsibility.

In addition to this, pupils are taught the values and reasons behind laws; that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as PCSOs help to reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

“One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen, can change the world.”
Malala Yousafzai

“Individual liberty is about freedom and our rights. We know that we can and cannot do some things and we know that racism and hate speech are not ok.” William and Devan, Year 5

We support children to make informed choices in a secure setting. Children develop self-respect and value themselves as individuals. Our school ethos and methods of teaching, develop children’s independence as well as other qualities such as perseverance and resilience. The St Keyna Skills Wheel, our ‘Learning to Learn’ programme has helped to develop pupils’ awareness of their own responsibilities and to value themselves and their potential. Throughout our curriculum, including online safety, we educate children on their rights and personal freedoms, as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely and responsibly.

Children are encouraged to achieve highly and work hard. Through determination and self-belief we foster ambition. Visits from authors, scientists, politicians and athletes encourage children to follow their dreams and embark on the journey to realising their career and life goals.

Mutual Respect

“We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters, or we will perish together as fools.” *Martin Luther King Jr*

“We are not related by blood but by friendship and love, and without respect we would all grow apart and our beloved world would be covered in darkness. Our hearts would shrink without respect and love.” Melissa, Y6

“Respect is something you need in life to show good qualities in general and in public interactions. Without it, the Earth we live on would be mean and hard and ugly.” Yoskar, Y6

“Respect is one of the greatest powers a human can have; a form of positivity and empathy for yourself and others. Respect is what gives life purpose.” Emma, Y6

Respect is a core value of our school and underpins our ethos. Respect is shown by all adults and children towards each other and towards our community. Our broad curriculum supports this and helps children to articulate what respect means in practice.

Our E-team are proactive in planning the focus and events for our Free2BMe weeks and recent focuses have been gender bias and stereotypes in sports and in the workplace. Black History Month is another key whole-school focus each year and recent themes have been black Scientists and Mathematicians and black British cultural figures. We explore and celebrate achievements of significant black people at an age appropriate level but also start to explore barriers and prejudice.

Children can talk about their beliefs as well as the faiths and beliefs of others. Our aim is that our school community shows warmth and respect to those who enter our doors, and that our pupils then take this respect for others into their life beyond St. Keyna.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

“The highest result of education is tolerance.” *Helen Keller*

“Without tolerance, race, gender, age, religion or sexuality would be judged. It would make those with different faiths and beliefs scared to show who they are.” Isla P, Y6

Tolerance is all about respecting everyone; their beliefs, sexuality, gender, age, religion, race and everything about them.” Brooklyn Y6

As a Community Primary School, values underpin our ethos and we re-enforce British Values through our assemblies which often teach about Christianity and respect for other religions and important spiritual figures. We have good links with local churches and the children take

part in and experience a Christmas Service at St John's Church and perform an Easter play at the local Methodist Church. As a school we maintain good links with the local Children and Families Worker and we also have termly assemblies led by Churches Together.

Through Religious Education and PSHE, in particular, we deepen children's understanding of faith and belief. We participate in a wide range of celebrations such as Chinese New Year and Christmas, as well as many others. We welcome visitors from our community and those beyond. We have an emphasis on British culture and celebrate St. George's Day (on which children attend school in out-of-school organisation uniforms, e.g. Cubs and Brownies), as well as special events such as jubilees, Remembrance Day and the Olympics.

At St. Keyna Primary School, we view these fundamental British values as universal moral beliefs that are commonly held across the world. We teach these through a distinct curriculum that recognises the unique culture of Britain whilst developing in our pupils a pride in being part of the British nation.

Ofsted inspection November 2016

"Pupils' understanding of the fundamental British values of democracy, tolerance and respect are strong because these values are reinforced throughout every aspect of school life. Pupils have a deep understanding of diversity and equality. This helps them to learn together and from each other to achieve their very best. Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain."

"High-quality relationships and mutual respect equip pupils well to be responsible citizens. Their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is highly developed. The school council and the house captain system support pupils' developing understanding of democracy. Some pupils take part in a 'Paint Pals' initiative where they visit a local home for the elderly and work together with residents on art projects. This work supports pupils' understanding of others and enables them to make valuable contributions to the wider community."