

PINNER WOOD SCHOOL

British Values Statement

British Values

In June 2014, the Prime Minister emphasised the important role the British values can play in education. Further, how well a school promotes such values is an aspect of Ofsted's inspection process.

Although in 2014-15 this was something that was developing its significance for schools, it is not something new at Pinner Wood Primary School. British values are promoted in much of what we do, during school assemblies, Religious Education, Philosophy and Personal, Social and Education (PSHE) sessions. The values are also integral to our vision and values.

As well as actively promoting British values, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including "extremist" views.

The British values we espouse are not unique to Britain. We acknowledge that they differ in no way from the values of the many countries and the cultural backgrounds represented by families at Pinner Wood.

Below are just a few examples of how we promote British values. The first section, being part of Britain, is a general overview; the others are specific expectations set out by Ofsted.

Being Part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Pinner Wood School. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year; for example, Harvest Festival in the Autumn Term and trips to the pantomime at Christmas. We also value and celebrate national events.

Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Two specific examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

Geographically: Our learning ensures the children have a better understanding of what Britain is, learning more about:

- Its coasts, rivers and mountains
- Where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world

Historically: Key moments and figures in British history are studied in the topics such as 'The Fire of London' and 'Florence Nightingale'.

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Pinner Wood Primary School. Democracy is central to how we operate.

An obvious example is our School Council. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret using ballot boxes etc. Made up of two representatives from each class, the School Council has hosted visits from the Mayor's Office, the Mayor and the Governing body. In 2015 we held an election to vote for a Headteacher for the day mirroring the process of the General Election.

Another example of 'pupil voice' is:

- Children are asked to respond and reflect on the teaching and learning they receive in a variety of ways including the use of colours -Red, Yellow, green).

Our behaviour policy includes rewards that pupils can vote for as a group. Children earn Golden Time every week and choose what to do in that time. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils. At their own request Yr5 and 6 children attend the progress meetings with their parents.

Parents' opinions are welcomed at Pinner Wood School through methods such as questionnaires, surveys at parent's evenings and working groups for areas such as the Travel Plan.

Rules and Laws

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on our behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses the Golden Rules and class routines, principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when the laws are broken. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- Visits to settings such as Junior Citizens, PGL Action and Adventure Holidays, Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre (HOAC), Christian Youth Enterprises (CYE)
- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- During Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment, we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- Choices about what learning challenge or activity
- Choices about how they record their learning, particularly home learning
- Choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities
- Choices around volunteering for responsibilities, such as playground leader

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our PSHE lessons, internet safety training, or at HOAC.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

Pinner Wood School serves an area which is culturally diverse and we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Tolerance, politeness and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims and ethos.

Our central aim to 'have respect for and show kindness towards each other' drives us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we at Pinner Wood enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- Through Religious Education, PSHE and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures – in English through fiction and in art and music by considering cultures from other parts of the world.
- Celebrating cultural differences through assemblies, themed weeks, noticeboards and displays
- Our annual 'Where in the World?' week and International Evening

Whilst instances contrary to our values are relatively rare, we would treat any instance very seriously.

Miss Sarah Marriott

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