

British Values at Devonshire Junior Academy

At Devonshire, we promote British Values through all aspects of everyday school life. We have also designed a curriculum to approach and explore key aspects of British Values that meets the needs of our pupils and community. As a school that serves a diverse community, we believe it is our duty to encourage respect for others as well as an acceptance of difference and individual rights.

Democracy:

The voice of the pupil plays a big role in life at Devonshire. Each member of the School Council is elected by their class peers and each committee within the council works towards making Devonshire a better place to learn. In school, pupils are frequently involved in pupil interviews and questionnaires, ensuring their opinion are always heard and all views are at the forefront of any decision made. We are sure that the active participation of pupils will guide them to understand the value of democracy in our country. Each year we take part in an act of Remembrance and reflect on the causes of conflict and its link to democracy.

Our Autumn Year 6 learning challenge is based around World War 2 and asks: *Can we create a memorial for our local fallen heroes so that they are not forgotten?*

Rule of Law:

Our pupils are taught to appreciate that rules and law will be encountered throughout their lives. We hope for each child to learn that laws govern the class, school and country for good reasons and when those rules are broken consequences follow. Within Devonshire, all pupils are involved in creating classroom rules and school values which encourages them to take responsibility for their behaviour. Discussion of the rules that govern our school and country are consistently reinforced through our curriculum as well as whole, class and singing assemblies. Pupils who break rules are encouraged to understand and reflect on their own actions; they are then supported through 'emotion coaching' techniques to develop positive ways forward.

Individual Liberty:

Within our school environment, we devote time and effort to ensure pupils at Devonshire are aware of the choices available to them. Our creative curriculum, encourages children to direct their learning and share their views on what they would like to learn about to complete a successful learning challenge. Children at Devonshire are also given the opportunity to participate in a range of after-school clubs where they are able to make choices about extra-curricular activities based on their interests. Furthermore, class and whole-school assemblies raise important topical issues, allowing children an opportunity to share their views and reflect on choices they and others have made.

Our Spring Year 3 learning challenge is based around healthy lifestyles and choices. It asks: *Can we make a healthy product for our local community?*

Mutual Respect:

Showing respect to others is highly valued at Devonshire as we believe we play a role in shaping future citizens of the community. We have a strong focus on developing the whole child promoting the values of fairness, tolerance and respect for others. Through our creative curriculum, we seek out opportunities to establish strong links with the community through social enterprise. We value the importance of showing respect and support to others in our local community through fundraisers, educational visits and by welcoming visitors into our school. For example, Year 6 visits our local residential care home to share an afternoon tea. In class assemblies, we discuss our values and beliefs, consider our attitudes towards others and reflect upon how to be better citizens. Using class reflection logs, children can record discussions and look back at these as they develop throughout their time in school. The value of being respectful is reiterated through our classroom and school rules, reminding children how important it is to think of others. We believe that our strong values are reflected in the calm, respectful atmosphere; many visits comment very favourably on this aspect of our school.

Our Spring Year 5 Learning Challenge question is based around helping others and asks: *How can we help people affected by a catastrophe to make a positive difference in their lives?*

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs:

Our culturally rich and diverse school environment promotes acceptance of all faiths and beliefs. Through our RE curriculum, all children are given the opportunity to learn not only about each religion but also to learn from them, ensuring we promote tolerance and understanding of differing beliefs. Each year group also has the opportunity to participate in a visit to a place of worship so they are fully immersed in the teaching of different faiths and get first-hand experience of all religions. In the autumn term, Year 5 pupils present their *Autumn Festival* celebrating and sharing Harvest, Eid and Diwali with their parents. Our assemblies draw on stories from the major religions and all our children share Harvest, Easter and Christmas assemblies. The whole school also attends our Christmas Carol concert at Holy Trinity Church. Through our curriculum and our school culture we aim that our children develop a respectful, curious and tolerant approach to carry forward into their later life.

Our Summer Year 4 learning challenge question is based around our rich cultural heritage and asks: *How can we celebrate our multi-cultural heritage so that we can bring different community groups together?*