Promoting 'British Values' at Chalfont Valley E-ACT Primary Academy

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 have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At Chalfont Valley E-ACT Primary Academy these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Democracy is rife within the school. Our School Council is democratically elected, and we have a special assembly on what democracy means. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil questionnaires, and monitoring by subject leaders will always take into account what our pupils think. School rules are agreed and discussed with each class, giving them the sense of ownership, and class rewards for agreed on by pupils.

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. We will be actively encouraging visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service to help reinforce this message.

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 safety, through of provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge in their homework, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown; not just in the school community, but also extending to other races, religions and cultures. We promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. We reward children's resourcefulness and ability to work collaboratively in our

whole-school rewards and celebrations assembly, and plan for and provide opportunities for children to work collaboratively, promoting the importance of this, and developing appropriate peer-assessment rooted in a mutual respect for the work each of us does.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Our RE Curriculum encompasses all major World Religions & Faiths, and is taught in a way to celebrate and respect this diversity. Where possible, we make links to different faiths and beliefs through the curriculum, for example through learning about Black History month, finding out about how other faiths celebrate major Religious festivals, and all done in a culture of respect and celebration. To develop this even further, we will aim this year to encourage members of different faiths or religions to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.