

Promoting British Values

The DfE have 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, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

At Great Ouse Primary Academy these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Throughout their time at Great Ouse Primary Academy, children are given opportunities to discuss and share their views on a range of issues. This may be, for example, as part of a debate in an English lesson, when talking about issues during a PSHCE lesson, or when discussing topics in circle time or in assembly. Children can express their opinions about the school in our pupil survey, and in pupil voice discussions which the Academy Principal holds as part of their monitoring of the curriculum. They also have opportunities to vote on options, for example when choosing reward activities. Children learn about democracy in history lessons, and within the PSHCE curriculum

Rule of Law

Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school, including playground rules and safety rules. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

There are also many opportunities taken for teaching children about the importance of rules and laws, for example in learning to play team games in PE lessons, when staff teach younger children playground games and when playing games which help children learn maths or phonics skills. Classes draw up their own class rules at the start of each year and these are regularly reinforced in the classroom and during assemblies, and are invoked if children misbehave.

We have a close relationship with our Police Community Support Officers, who visit the school, for example, when younger children are learning about ‘People Who Help Us’. Children also learn about safety and rules of the road and all Year 4 pupils are offered the opportunity to take part in a cycle training course, ‘Bikeability’.

Individual Liberty

As a school we place great emphasis on allowing all pupils to make choices and follow their own interests and preferences, within the boundaries of a safe and secure environment. Examples of this include the youngest children choosing their activities for a substantial proportion of the day, and older children making choices about the kind of work they produce in response to an educational stimulus such as a visiting theatre group or a school trip or identifying their own success criteria. We also talk to children about the concept of human rights in assemblies and PSHCE lessons, and teach them the importance of liberty, and the devastating effects of loss of liberty.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of the school's values. Children are taught to respect each other, and adults, and to base their behaviour on empathy towards others. They learn that everyone is different but everyone is equally important. We help children to develop their awareness of people's differences and similarities, and to value the rich diversity of the human race.

All members of the school community model this by treating each other with respect.

Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

At Great Ouse Primary Academy, we ensure that our RE curriculum includes many opportunities to learn to understand and respect all faiths and beliefs. Throughout our curriculum including our PSHCE lessons, we reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others.

Children visit the mosque, and gurdwara and churches in Bedford as part of an organized Faith Tour and we welcome members of different faiths and religions who are encouraged to share their knowledge with the children to enhance learning within classes and the school. Festivals and traditions from different faiths are explored and celebrated, sometimes with the lead being taken by our own pupils and staff.

Reviewed September 2021

Next Review September 2021

Great Ouse
PRIMARY ACADEMY

