

PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES AT PORTLAND SPENCER ACADEMY

The Department for Education has 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 were reiterated in 2014 and 2015.

At Portland, British values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

STARFISH Story

This is a story which demonstrates how everyone has the power to make positive changes in the world in order to make a difference, no matter how small the act may be. Please follow the link to enjoy the story: <http://www.portlandspenceracademy.co.uk/images/doc/Starfish%20Story.pdf>

All our children know that story of the starfish, and we reflect regularly to discuss how we have made a positive difference in our school and community. One letter of the ‘starfish’ is used as a weekly focus for all our pupils and staff, to ensure everyone is seeing how important their role in being an effective member of the British society is.

DEMOCRACY

At the beginning of each year children affirm the school’s expectations and the rights and responsibilities associated with these. Every child and staff member takes responsibility for instilling these values into the school community. The children and staff actively engage with each other to create harmonious learning environments where everyone is responsible for the high expectations through our ‘Portland Pact’. Portland has a school council who are elected by their peers. Within class, children have a chance to write their own proposal and give a speech as to why they should be a class representative. The class then decide who will be best at representing them. Our children understand that being a member of the council comes with great responsibility and a commitment to giving their best to school life. Democracy is taught during assemblies and class-based PSHE sessions. Children regularly get opportunities to express their views in school through Pupil Voice interviews and questionnaires. For example, children have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school.

THE RULE OF LAW

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, is consistently reinforced at Portland. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school through our ASPIRE values and Portland Pact. 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. Through our whole school approach, we enable children to develop the language and strategies to solve conflict and to right wrongs. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help to reinforce this message. At Portland we offer a wide range of exciting opportunities for children to be leaders in many contexts, and they understand that the rules they have created are there to keep them safe and happy in all the learning they take part in. This extends to visits and learning outside of the school, acting as ambassadors while on school trips.

This level of responsibility and understanding from our children means that teachers can organise engaging and exciting school trips.

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

At Portland, 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 our young pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand, and exercise their rights and personal freedoms. They are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety and PSHE lessons. From the very start of their school life children are encouraged to challenge themselves by giving them ownership of their own learning. Children have learning toolkits shared with them, so that they know exactly what they can do to progress. Children are excited to respond and to forward their own learning and to achieve their goals. Our 'Pupil Leadership' groups also provide rich opportunities for children to discuss, debate, and make decisions for the school.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Respect and responsibility are key values that permeate all aspects of school life at Portland. They are fundamental to the way we support and care for each other, the community and the environment. At Portland, we value the positive relationships between all adults and children, and see this as being key to enabling all children to access their learning in a safe environment. Assemblies regularly cover the theme of 'respect'; Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. Class Dojo is an embedded tool which allows positive behaviours to be rewarded, and similarly, sanctions to be given where necessary (linked directly to our behaviour policy). Children's achievements are displayed for everyone to learn from. Learning and effort are highly respected and the whole school is focused on developing a great sense of worth and achievement.

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 educating them and giving them opportunities to experience different faiths and beliefs, be they similar or different to their own. We draw upon the rich cultural and social diversity within our school and use it to nurture our children and gain positive experiences from their fellow peers