

## Preparing Children for Life in Modern Britain



The DfE has stated 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.”

At Townhill Junior School we take very seriously our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain. We ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of the school. All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts and, in particular, our RE, PSHE and Citizenship lessons provide excellent opportunities to deepen and develop understanding. Children embrace these concepts with enthusiasm and demonstrate a good understanding of their application to their own lives.

The school makes considerable efforts to ensure children have exposure to a wide experience beyond their local community during which these concepts are shown, through for example, sporting events, a range of visits and visitors to the school and use of outdoor education centres. The school’s strong rooted values-based understanding gives our children an excellent platform for embracing difference.

At Townhill Junior School we are committed to embedding these values into our school community. We value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of our students, staff and parents and seek to celebrate this through our curriculum and events in school. We teach our students to follow the rule of law and to be tolerant and respectful of one another. These values are at the core of the Townhill Junior School ethos. We instil these values in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

Student voice is crucial at Townhill Junior School. Our pupils are able to contribute to the running of the school and have their voices heard through our thriving School Council. Our School Council meet regularly responding to and acting upon issues raised from the pupil body. A member of the Senior Management Team attends our School Council meetings to ensure the issues raised by the student body are always heard and acted upon.

## **Rule of Law**

The importance of Laws, whether that be those which govern the classroom, school or country is something which is reinforced by TJS staff every day. Our children are taught about this concept through weekly assemblies and our extensive SMSC curriculum. Our students are taught about the value and reasons behind laws, as well as it being made clear of the consequences when laws are broken. A range of external speakers from different areas of life are invited into the school to reinforce these messages.

## **Individual Liberty**

Our students are actively encouraged to make choices in a safe and supportive environment. The importance of making sensible choices is taught through assemblies, PSHE lessons, cyber awareness sessions and SMSC. We have had guest speaker talk to our students on the issues of individual liberty, freedom and respect. This has been hugely successful in getting our students discussing these issues both in and outside of the classroom.

## **Mutual Respect**

We actively promote tolerance, courtesy and good manners. Our students feel happy and safe in school and this is something we monitor through regular student and parent surveys. The consistent application of our behaviour and anti-bullying policies ensure that this is the case. We monitor and tackle all forms of bullying. Our students understand some are less fortunate than others; as a school we are committed to raising money every year to support a range of local and national charities. The huge array of events we put on to achieve this goal show mutual respect is fundamental to the Townhill Junior School community.

At Townhill Junior School we will actively challenge students, staff or parents who express opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including “extremist” views and use the following website to support this:

<http://educateagainsthate.com/>

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<b>British Values</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<b>Mutual Respect and the Tolerance of those with different Faiths and beliefs</b>	Respect is a fundamental school value, around which pivots much of the work of the school. We pay explicit attention to this as part of our RE, PHSE, and SMSC curriculum. Respect is a school value that is discussed deeply, starting with self-respect and covering respect for family, friends, and other groups; the world and its people; and the environment.	Records of PSHE Sessions / Collective Worship. RE curriculum RE planning and workbooks. Learning Walks for behaviour and behaviour for learning School Values.	Children can articulate why respect is important; how they show respect to others and how they feel about it for themselves. Children's behaviour demonstrates their good understanding of this value in action. Children are able to talk about the different faiths and cultures they learn about, ask questions and show tolerance and respect for others of different faiths and religions.
<b>Democracy</b>	The children at Townhill Junior School see democracy borne out in a whole variety of ways and see this as being an essential component of successful team working. Democracy is a school value that children meet when discussing respect and fairness.	The establishment of a new School Council each year models the democratic process. RE planning and work books. Learning Walks for behaviour and behaviour for learning School Values.	Children are able to work cooperatively in pairs and groups as well as in whole class situations. They understand about turn taking and respecting the views of others. Children in KS2 in particular are able to use the language of respect.
<b>Rule of Law</b>	The children at Townhill Junior School are familiar with this concept through the philosophy that infuses the entire work of the school. They are familiar with the concept through the discussion of values and, in RE lessons, the idea that different religions have guiding principles. Children are used to debating and discussing laws/rules and their application. Children are familiar with the Local PCSOs who visit to talk to them informally.	Class Rules School Rules Learning Behaviours School Values PSHE/Citizenship lessons on the role of law and parliament School Council meetings Collective Worship. RE planning and work books. Learning Walks for behaviour and behaviour for learning.	Children are able to articulate how and why we need to behave in school and demonstrate they understand and can abide by these. They are able to discuss and debate philosophical issues in relation to these.
<b>Individual Liberty</b>	Our Values based discussions and acts of worship begin with discussion about the self, e.g. self-respect and self-worth in relation to the individual value so that children see that they are important in their own right. The philosophy of our teaching and learning places emphasis on the right to have our own thoughts and evidence based views. Children are strongly encouraged to develop independence in learning and to think for themselves.	Children are able to show independence in learning and to think for themselves.	Children understand about the importance of accepting responsibility and of their right to be heard in school. They are consulted on many aspects of school life and demonstrate independence of thought and action.