



Promoting British Values at Merry Hill Infant School and Nursery

The National Curriculum states that '*schools should promote the fundamental **British Values** of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs*'.

At Merry Hill Infant School and Nursery we are committed to embedding these British Values throughout our curriculum, ensuring our children are continually exposed to them through excellent teaching and learning.

We believe it is important to equip our children with the knowledge and skills to think for themselves and to challenge and debate. We want to ensure all children have an understanding of the values we share, and that they show respect for and celebrate the cultures, faiths and beliefs of others.



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Democracy

Evidence and Impact:

At Merry Hill, we work hard to ensure that all pupils, parents and staff have their voices and opinions heard.

School Council

- Our School Council is made up of representatives who apply and are elected based solely on votes from their peers. School Council elections ensure that children understand the importance of voting, and of using their vote to elect the person with the best skills for the job, not just the person they like the most.
- The School Council is used as a vehicle to gain the views of our pupils. This means that even our youngest children are consulted on ideas which lead to an improved learning experience. The school council meet regularly to feedback their actions and make decisions through consultation with their peers such as how to raise money for Comic Relief and which new books to order for the school library.

Eco Warriors and Digital Leaders

- Our Eco Warriors and Digital Leaders are elected by the children in their class.
- Eco Warriors take the lead in ensuring Merry Hill does all it can to care for our environment and are role models of how to be responsible citizens.
- Digital leaders listen to the views of their class and feed this back to other council members and where necessary, SLT. They are role models within computing lessons and take the lead in gaining pupil voice of ideas of how to further improve computing provision at Merry Hill.

Circle Time

- Teachers look for opportunities to demonstrate democratic participation by emphasising the importance of freedom of speech within discussions. Each class has regular circle times, during which every child has the opportunity to speak and have their voice heard. Clear rules during these sessions make sure that the children listen to each other without interrupting.

Class Discussions

- During class discussions, all children are encouraged to engage in debate and opinion sharing. Through this, they learn to respect each other's opinions and understand that their idea about something is not the only possible idea. Teachers ensure that everyone's views are listened to and discussed, as well as challenging these through looking at evidence. Teachers ask questions such as 'how did you come to that opinion? Is there any other possibility?' to ensure children consider all options before making a decision. As a result, children at Merry Hill excel at co-operative working and collaboration. It is evident that the children are able to confidently discuss their own ideas and at the same time listen to each other's opinions

Creative Curriculum

- Our creative curriculum ensures all children have the opportunity to contribute their ideas and interests to their learning experiences. This collaboration is extended to parents using our curriculum maps and through year group blog posts.

Views of the School Community

- Parents, pupils and staff are canvassed regularly for their views, formally and informally. We ensure questionnaires are an annual event and there is a staff and parent suggestion box which is always available. When appropriate, parents are invited to school to comment on such things as 'Vision & Values', 'School website', 'Mental Health and Well-being and other communication. All opinions and suggestions are valued and discussed, and are acted upon where appropriate.

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Rule of Law

Evidence and Impact:

Golden Rules

- At Merry Hill, we strive for all children to recognise the value of having rules, both at school and in the community. We want them to understand the reason these rules are in place, the responsibilities these rules involve and the consequences for when these are broken. We also want all children to recognise that everyone who breaks rules should be treated fairly and consistently.
- All children at Merry Hill know the school's 'Golden Rules.' These rules are taught through regular circle time sessions and are consistently reinforced by all staff throughout the school. All children understand why it is important that we have these rules in school and that they are there to help keep them safe.

Classroom and Playground Rules

- The children are also actively involved in creating their class rules, so that there is a high level of accountability for these. The teachers create these rules with their classes at the start of the school year.
- Children at Merry Hill are aware of the consequences of breaking the rules and that consistent consequences are applied to all pupils. If one of the rules is broken, teachers ensure they discuss what has happened, give the child the opportunity for their voice to be heard and remind them why it is important for the rules to be kept by everyone. Children are taught the importance of self-reflection after a rule is broken so they can repair and restore, learning from the experience and strive to make improvements.

Visitors

- The school also regularly hosts visits from members of the community such as The Mayor and Mayoress, The Police, Fire Service and members of Northwood Military Base. These different visits help the children to understand that the 'Law' is rules that grown-ups must live by in society and that breaking these laws have consequences.

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Individual Liberty

Evidence and Impact:

Nurture

- At Merry Hill, all pupils are valued as individuals who are nurtured to reach their full potential. Education is very much a joint effort between home and school, with parents encouraged to be fully involved in all aspects of school life. Parents and carers much appreciate Merry Hill's outstanding care, guidance and support.

Making Choices

- Children are actively encouraged to make their own choices knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. This is done in a variety of ways such as the Golden Time Activities, Lunch (vegetable and dessert choices), Child Initiated Learning and Play Times (which games to play and with whom).
- Teachers also provide opportunities within lessons and Circle Time sessions that enable the children to make choices, express their opinions through debate or role play and encourage them to find creative solutions to problems.

High Expectations

- Children are actively encouraged to achieve the best they can through consistently high expectations from all school staff. In many lessons, children are able to self-differentiate, which means they can choose the level of challenge in their tasks and take ownership of their learning. The children are able to make sensible choices and display a high level of independence in choosing and tackling independent tasks, even pupils in Early Years.

Child-led Curriculum

- Children are consulted on many aspects of school life, which helps them to feel like a valued and important member of our school. This includes our new child-led themed curriculum where children are encouraged to ask questions at the start of a new topic to inform teacher planning. Teachers pride themselves on getting to know the individuals within their class so they can link learning to the children's interest and personalise approaches to heighten engagement and enthusiasm for learning.

Celebrations

- Children are also actively encouraged to celebrate their own skills and achievements as individuals and at the same time show respect for the skills and achievements of others. They are encouraged to understand that all people are good at different things, but that all successes should be celebrated. We do this through, displaying and celebrating samples of all children's work within the learning environment and sharing homework within class every week.
- A weekly 'Celebration' assembly celebrates the achievements of individuals each week. The children are always extremely proud of their achievements and eager to share these. They are also extremely kind to other children when they achieve.
- The weekly 'Values' assembly celebrates children who have been demonstrating values we have been focusing on at school, such as honesty, empathy and peace.
- Exemplary achievement and effort is also celebrated within the weekly year group blogs on our school website along with our Monthly Newsletter emailed to parents. These have included examples of work where a child has particularly impressed their teachers or a piece of work the child is particularly proud of.

Confidence

- The emotional well-being of every pupil is of fundamental importance to the school. The school provides targeted support for vulnerable pupils to ensure that all pupils are able to reach their full potential. Interventions support pupils to quickly grow in confidence, develop their self-esteem and make rapid progress (evidence through case studies)

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Freedom

- As a school with many pupils from Forces families, our Remembrance Assembly is an important time of the school year. We invite parents and children from Forces families to take part, and it provides an opportunity for pupils and staff to remember those who were hurt or died during conflict and reflect on how so many people fought to ensure our freedom.

Mutual Respect for and Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

Evidence and Impact:

Respect

- Our school ethos and behaviour policy is forged from the notion of 'Respect', and all our pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown.

Cultural diversity

- At Merry Hill we aim to foster cohesion by recognising similarities that unite us, while at the same time promoting the differences that enrich us. We believe that just 'tolerating' these differences is not enough and we want to actively celebrate them.
- We strive to install a sense of belonging to the wider community for all pupils by actively promoting cultural diversity.
- Every term, every year group throughout the school learns about a significant person within history which has had a positive impact on the lives we lead. Children learn about the culture and heritage of these people and celebrate the important work they did. For example, year 1's loved learning about Martin Luther King and thinking about their 'dream' to make their world a better place. Many children have shared this learning with their families and gone on to carry out their own further research into their own family heritage.

Different Faiths

- Through R.E. lessons, the children learn about different religions and beliefs. Teachers use a wide range of resources to support the teaching and to bring their learning to life. Children of different religions and cultures are actively involved in these lessons and are encouraged to share their knowledge and experiences, such as sharing their experiences of going to the Mosque or sharing how they celebrate Diwali. The children at Merry Hill consistently show respect for other faiths and cultures and have a genuine interest in learning about these. They ask insightful questions and take part in thoughtful discussions both during these sessions and outside of lessons.

Equality

- The children are able to recognise and discuss how everyone is equal and should be treated the same. They are able to confidently discuss why it is important that we value and celebrate all faiths, beliefs and cultures. There are very rarely incidences of discriminatory behaviour, and on the rare occasion these do occur they are always addressed immediately through sensitive discussion. All staff support children to understand how to respect everyone by talking about how actions and words can affect others. We instil respect through talking about and treating others as we want to be treated, being courteous and polite and listening to what others have to say.

Celebrations

- To ensure our children learn about and experience meeting people from other countries and backgrounds we place great emphasis on providing a broad range of multicultural celebrations throughout the year. This is particularly evident through our Autumn term topic 'Carnival of Colours' where we celebrate Fireworks Night, Diwali, Hanukkah, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also celebrate Eid in the Autumn and Summer term.

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The wider community

- We welcome members of different faiths to come in and take assemblies and talk to the children in their classes. Children also have an opportunity to visit the local places of worship to support their learning in RE.

Merry Hill's next steps:

- Dedicate a section of the school website to the School Council so that the minutes of their meetings and the impact they are having can be seen by the school community.
- To hold an 'International' event to celebrate diversity within the school.

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