



Cromwell Academy Commitment to 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 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 this year (2014). At Cromwell Academy these values are reinforced regularly and are evidenced in the following ways:

Schools, through their curriculum, are legally bound to actively promote fundamental British values.

Cromwell Academy for many years has taught English Heritage and pupils already have developed a good understanding of our country, its history and some of our customs, values, democracy, law, liberty, respect and tolerance to actively promote the government are asking all schools to focus on, and show how, the school's work is effective in securing these British Values as a school we approach this using many different strategies some examples are listed below.

As a school we have pupil leadership through the School Council, Eco Council and House Captains. All of these groups lead work within the school to further promote British Values and English Heritage.

As part of our curriculum we also enhance British Values through assemblies and special performances and gatherings such as Ladies in school Day, Men in school Day, Grandparent's in school day linked to Armistice Day as well as Christmas Performances, visits from Santa at our school Christmas fete, Harvest festival assemblies, International Day activities amongst many other culturally diverse theme days.

Democracy

- **Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services**
Teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process

Include in the curriculum information on the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain

- Encourage pupils to become involved in decision-making processes and ensure they are listened to in school
- Organise visits to the local council and Parliament
- Hold 'mock elections' so pupils learn how to argue and defend points of view
- Help pupils to express their views
- Teach pupils how public services operate and how they are held to account
Model how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged

Rule of law

Ensure school rules, codes of conduct and expectations are explicit, clear and fair

- Help pupils to distinguish right from wrong this is enhanced by our wonderful links with the Police and local PCSO's who fully support the work of the school
- Help pupils to respect the law and the basis on which it is made
- Help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals
- Include visits from the police in the curriculum
- Teach pupils aspects of both civil and criminal law and discuss how this might differ from some religious laws
- Develop an understanding of restorative justice approaches to resolve conflicts. Restorative justice is a theory of justice that emphasises repairing the harm caused or revealed by criminal behaviour against another person or other people.

Individual Liberty

- Support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights
- Model freedom of speech through pupil participation, while ensuring protection of vulnerable pupils and promoting critical analysis of evidence
- Challenge stereotypes
- Implement a strong anti-bullying culture
- Follow the UNICEF rights respecting schools agenda

Cromwell Academy pupils are actively encouraged to make informed choices, knowing that they are in a safe and a supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make informed choices, through providing a safe environment and an empowering education. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-safety and PSHE lessons. As a school we believe in the importance of forgiveness and trying to put things right. We believe that in life we sometimes make wrong decisions but this is key to life long learning.

Respect and tolerance

- Promote respect for individual differences
- Help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life
- Challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- Organise visits to places of different types of worship

- Develop links with faith communities such as through our Interfaith Council and links with other Peterborough religious groups and settings
- Develop critical personal thinking skills
- Discuss differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, intellect, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations, such as looked-after children or young carers as well as wealth and the distribution of wealth and support from the government through funding such as pupil premium and other benefits that support educationally.

Kindness and mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Commitment to charity work

Cromwell Academy encourages pupils and families to participate in and support charities nationally and locally. This reinforces that there are large numbers of people both at home and overseas who are much less fortunate than ourselves who need our support. The school and its pupils support a range of charities, one of which is chosen by the School Council.