



British Values Policy

*Please read in conjunction with our SMSC Policy,
Behaviour Policy and Rewards Policy.*

At Whitehall we promote British Values through our delivery of SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development), PHSE (Physical, Health, Social and Economic education), the curriculum and by the over-arching Ethos of the school of making a positive contribution to the school and ultimately to society.

We follow The Government's guidance of promoting the fundamental British values of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

We enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence through PHSE where they are able to talk about their feelings and work through scenarios to support the development of character and the understanding of others. Children are also given the opportunity to perform and present to their class and the school as a forum for sharing ideas, skills and talents.

As part of their Moral development (SMSC) we enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England through the teaching of 'respect', 'consideration' and 'courtesy' which is displayed and modelled by all. The children have class councils which feed into their own School Parliament and this forum enables them to have a voice in the development of the school. Children's Moral development is supported through the consistent delivery of the school rules by all adults in the school and an unwavering delivery of school behaviour and rewards policies. Creating school and class rules in a democratic way, through discussion and collaboration supports children's appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.

Through our Social development (SMSC) we encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, to learn the strength of forgiveness and to accept that negative consequences can be used positively in the development of character. This is done through the consistent use of the behaviour and rewards policies and through the curriculum in Visual Literacy and in RE. Children are also given learning opportunities to use their behaviour to make a positive difference to the lives of others in the community by being involved in community projects and visiting places of worship, care homes, day care centres and by being involved in raising money for local, national and world charities. This creates a strong foundation that enables them to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely.

We enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England by an engaging and exciting curriculum in the Early Years where they visit and have visits from 'people who help us'. This gives them the opportunity to not only understand the support that these institutions give to us but how they can aspire to be part of this support and give back to the country.

Through our Cultural and Spiritual development (SMSC) we encourage the understanding of tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. Children celebrate the major festivals of their faith with their class and year group, through assemblies, class parties and cultural and world music workshops. Parents are encouraged to engage with this learning by sharing knowledge of culture and faith in class assemblies and joining in the various celebrations throughout the year.

Encouraging respect for other people is part of the ethos of the school and respect is modelled by all adults in the school. School Parliament members (Yr 1 and Yr 2 MPs) and Play Leaders (Year 2 children, trained as peer mentors) also act as role models for the other children and have strategies to share with their peers to support positive relationships and respect.

To develop an understanding of the democratic nature of our country we actively promote democratic processes with a school parliament whose members are voted for by the pupils based on written or aural manifestos that the children have created as part of their Social Development (SMSC). This process and the subsequent visit by MPs to Parliament in London, weekly school parliament sessions and class councils encourages them to understand the value of participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England. Children learn through everyday situations in the class about the benefits of talking things through and making collective decisions that not only benefit them but the whole group. This ongoing process provides a sound basis to understand how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process employed in our country and these class discussions also give them opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view.

To support children who have a religious upbringing that might have values and 'rules of law' that potentially could conflict with English state law, children are taught through RE about those differences and encouraged to share their views and opinions in a safe and balanced environment.

Teachers at Whitehall follow the Ethos of the school and the Professional Standards that all teachers are required to uphold. Teachers aspire to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour in the sharing of their views and opinions, within and outside school (including their use of social media).

Teachers understand that the law protects people's freedom to choose and hold faith and beliefs and accept that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. However any views shared by children or adults which are contrary to fundamental British values will be challenged through consultation with parents and the Headteacher.