

Promoting British Values at Parkfield School within the Primary sector.

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.”

At Parkfield these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Each year the children decide upon their class charter and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the charter. We are implementing a Primary student council which will meet every month to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council will have its own budget and is genuinely able to effect change within the school. Every child on the student council is voted in by their class. 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 be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Parkfield. Students are taught from an early age the rules of the school. These are our Parkfield Promises, Traffic Lights and Green tokens. Students 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

At Parkfield, students 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 students enabling them to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our eSafety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual Respect

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. The second of our Parkfield Promises reads: “Do be kind and helpful”. Our Montessori ethos allows us to instil mutual respect between children during our work cycles through the Montessori principle of “Grace and Courtesy”

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Parkfield is a culturally diverse school. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. We explore different faiths through embedding directly within the curriculum and through celebrations and assemblies. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children visit places of worship and visitors from different faiths come in to school to talk to the children about their religion and culture.