

British Values

Developing respect for others in our school and for the wider world is at the centre of our learning at SS Alban & Stephen Infants. In accordance with the recent DfE consultation, schools *“must actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs, and encourage students to respect other people”*. (1)

Although we may find the words hard to say, all children know what these fundamental values look like because we practise them daily.

Democracy

“You get to choose what you want” Gabriel.

We learn about democracy, giving examples from our own experience. Children's voice is heard in School Council and Eco committee meetings. Their decisions are acted upon, for example choosing toys for the playground or charities to support. Children vote when making decisions about class rewards. As Cliona explained *“Others can't choose for you, you can choose what you have. Sometimes, like with marbles in the jar, you have to have something that lots of people like, but I don't mind”*. The children know about national democracy too as our nursery is used a polling station.

The rule of Law

“We have rules to keep us safe” Sally

All classrooms have rules devised by the children, designed to develop collective responsibility, alongside our school rules. Children develop an understanding of actions & consequences i.e. “You must push your chair in, otherwise someone might trip over” is a rule from Class 6. Classes working cooperatively, supporting each other to keep school rules in the playground will earn a weekly trophy in assembly. There is great excitement when all classes receive these trophies in the same week as it means a whole school reward. If rules are broken, children need to say sorry and understand that they can always have a fresh start. Older pupils can draw on knowledge of the world outside school. Aaron explained to his peers that if you drive through a red light, you could cause an accident and then the police would arrest you!

(1) Department for Education; Consultation on promoting British values in school; 23 June 2014

Individual Liberty

"Nobody can tell you what to eat. The cook lets you choose what you want."

Denzel

From Nursery, children are making choices, both indoors and outdoors, learning to share and take turns fairly. We try to develop empathy by imagining what it's like to stand in someone else's shoes in PSHE. There are individual golden ticket rewards for good play at lunchtime and Head teacher awards for effort and behaviour, celebrated during weekly assemblies. Alongside these there are clear sanctions; a warning card encourages children to modify their behaviour before losing Golden time. Children are taught to expect equality of opportunity and to speak out if something is unfair. Year Two recently presented an assembly to the school about the lives of famous women in medicine, who overcame great obstacles to pursue their ambitions.

Tolerance of Different Faiths & Belief

"A synagogue is where Jewish people go to worship" Darcey

We take seriously our responsibility to both support children in developing their own Catholic faith and to respect others who have different beliefs. We have dedicated teaching of the traditions of other faiths during RE lessons, especially Hinduism, Judaism and Islam, enabling children to recognise and understand diversity in the local community. During our annual Expressive Arts Week, we explore and learn about the cultures, religions and languages of different areas around the world (see the link on our school website to pictures of African Arts week 2014). We celebrate a rich variety of cultures and languages in our school community. There are after-school clubs supporting Spanish, French and Italian children which are available to all pupils.