

British Values Statement

In God's hands, we love, learn, grow and inspire

"What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like the mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on the earth. Yet, when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

Mark 4: 30-32

Our Values Statement

At Pencombe CofE Primary, we ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of the school. All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts and, in particular, RE, PSHE (Jigsaw) and assemblies provide opportunities to deepen and develop understanding.

We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British Society and to the world.

What is meant by British values?

Learning about British values forms a key part of children's spiritual, moral, cultural and social education. The five British values that the Government has identified for schools to focus on are:

1. **Democracy** - Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
2. **The rule of law** - Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
3. **Individual liberty** - Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law

4. **Mutual respect** - Support for equality of opportunity for all
5. **Tolerance** of those with different faiths and beliefs - Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

How does our school develop children's understanding of British Values?

Democracy:

The ability to communicate is the most important area of learning. We ensure that our pupils are given a 'voice' to communicate. The method of using this 'voice' could be using words, objects, photographs, pictures, symbols, touch cues, eye pointing or body language.

We empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each 'voice' and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty.

We have our own school council, the 'Pencombe Prophets' made up of representatives from across the school. All children are able to put themselves forward to their classmates. A ballot is held and pupils are voted for. Pupils also have the opportunity to have their voices heard through pupil questionnaires.

We hold termly 'Child Voice Conferences' where all children are encouraged to express their views and make a meaningful contribution to the development of the school on matters that directly involve pupils.

The children were responsible for the development of our Christian values choosing values which are most relevant to Pencombe CofE Primary.

Pupils are directly involved in discussing and creating a class code of conduct at the start of each year. Our school behaviour policy involves rewards which the pupils have discussed.

The Headteacher reports to Governors about the activities of the School Council.

The principle of democracy is explored in the History and RE curriculum as well as in assemblies and through Jigsaw sessions.

Pupils are actively involved in the selection processes of new staff.

Rule of Law:

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days. Our system for behaviour is aligned and agreed across the school.

We involve pupils in setting codes of behaviour; helping pupils to make decisions and choices that are acceptable to the school community and society at large. At the start of each year, each class discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.

Pupils are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions.

Staff are committed to providing a consistent and predictable environment within the school and beyond. We can help pupils to understand the connection between actions and consequences and to distinguish between right and wrong.

We are committed to praising children's efforts. Children are rewarded not only for achievement in curriculum areas, but also for behaviour. Rewards are given in the form of stickers, house points and certificates. Children's achievements are also recognised during Celebration Assemblies.

Individual Liberty:

Within school, our pupils are actively encouraged, and given the freedom to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. They are encouraged to become good and valued citizens and we do this by supporting each pupil to become as independent as possible. Learning to do things independently is an important part of learning to understand yourself.

We endeavour to demonstrate that everyone has rights; this includes the right to say 'No' when appropriate. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, e.g. through e-safety teaching and PSHE lessons. Freedom of speech is modelled through encouraging pupil participation.

Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged and a strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school.

Some pupils will be able to take responsibility for particular roles and to understand that with certain rights comes a level of responsibility including such roles as: House Captains, Sports Leaders, Pupil Council Representatives, Eco-Warriors, Monitors etc.

We support others by participating in local community events and charitable events such as, Red Nose Day/Comic Relief, Children in Need.

At our school we believe that by engendering a caring and helpful environment, and by learning to be independent, can boost and nurture a healthy self-esteem.

Mutual Respect:

Respect is one of the core values of our school. This can be seen and felt in our pervading ethos in school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small.

We promote each pupil's inclusion, where possible, in a range of activities, settings and locations. The children in Early Years are integrated with other children from the start of their school life. As pupils move into the other Key Stages, further planned events and circumstances are planned for pupils to go into the community to meet with a range of people in a variety of situations which include: sports events, community events and shared participation with other schools within and beyond the Federation.

It is important to facilitate opportunities for HMFA schools to be part of their unique communities as the pupils, families and staff have much to offer in the development of community cohesion.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs:

Throughout HMFA, schools serve a multi-faith community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. Through the PSHE and RE curriculums pupils are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations, such as looked after children or young carers.

We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all pupils' experiences and awareness of others. Pupils visit a range of places of worship.

Our Assemblies help all pupils to find out about themselves and others linking their lives to the communities in which they belong. The themes cover areas such as: friendships, helping others and celebrations from a range of faiths and world events.

Pupils are encouraged to experience British Culture through our curriculum themes. For example Victorians, World War 2 and Explorers. Schools take part in HMFA and local sporting activities which helps to instil 'fair play' and engender a 'team spirit'. For example, children have the opportunity to participate in the Federation athletics event.

Although some pupils may find it difficult to articulate their feelings and concerns; staff are attuned to changes in demeanour and well-being that may indicate anxiety. If they are concerned about a pupil our accepted practice links to the Safeguarding Policy which entrusts a duty of care to all staff to actively protect and promote the welfare of children.

The staff work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that the pupils at Pencombe CofE Primary are happy, well cared for and enabled to learn the skills they need to live a fulfilling life as part of their community.