

Croft Infant School

Promoting British Values

The Department for Education 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 Croft Infant School we actively promote British values within our school ethos and broad curriculum as well as through our daily assemblies and collective worship. The school has developed strong links within the local community including both the Methodist and Parish church, the library, the Heritage Centre and local shops. Within the school curriculum there is a programme of visits and visitors to support and reinforce the importance of these values in the education of our children, appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Democracy

Democracy underpins the values of the school. All pupils are treated fairly, with respect and have an equal right to express their views and be listened to. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, members of which are elected through a ballot by their class which introduces the children to the principle of democratic elections. Representatives from the School Council are chosen by their council members to put forward ideas for school improvement to the Headteacher or Governors for consideration. School Council meetings are held regularly and follow a set agenda. Members are chosen to take minutes from the meeting.

Our Governing Body is made up from elected representatives from the staff, local authority, parents and members of the community. They meet termly.

We actively seek the view of parents/carers throughout the year. This is done through parent meetings, workshops, evaluation forms and questionnaires. Responses from the annual questionnaire are collated and actioned.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour or through our school assemblies. Our children are taught the value and reasons behind our rules, and the responsibility they have in abiding by and upholding them. They are also made aware that laws are there to govern and protect us within our school, their community and wider society. We have a thorough but very positive behaviour policy through which all staff consistently promote our high expectations. Visits from the Police, Fire Service, Road Safety Team, School Health and the PDSA reinforce the message that we all have a duty to follow laws and that there are consequences for those who chose not to.

Individual Liberty

All pupils within the safe and supportive environment of Croft Infant School are actively encouraged to make choices. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our young children to make these choices safely. Pupils are encouraged to know and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our PSHE sessions, circle time and learning about e-safety. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of how they record, whether they work independently or co-operatively, of participation in our extra-curricular clubs, through becoming a Playground Friend or member of the School Council, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

At all times our school promotes the right of all children to learn and thrive in an atmosphere of mutual respect. We actively promote respect for others and this is reinforced through class and school rules, good behaviour policy, PSHE, Circle Time and whole school assemblies. During PSHE or Circle Time our children are expected to listen to and respect the views and opinions of others. Sports day, PE lessons and after school provision reinforce the importance of mutual respect, equality and fairness. Assembly themes such as caring for ourselves and others, similarities and differences, personalities, celebrating differences and teamwork allows children the opportunity to reflect on the diversity of both the school community and society in general and to respect others for who they are.

Participation in charity work such as Barnardos, Children in Need and Comic Relief reinforces to all the need for mutual respect.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

All staff at Croft Infant School are committed to developing with the children the language needed to express their views, emotions and feelings so that children are able to negotiate with their peers and resolve any disagreements in a peaceful manner. Our assemblies (collective worship), RE and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Key celebrations in different faiths are learned about such as Diwali, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Christmas, Easter and Harvest. These celebrations may be explored through stories, role play and using resources within school including ICT. Members of different faiths are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within the classroom.

Opportunities to discuss prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are supported by learning in RE and PSHE and a zero tolerance culture is well publicised.