



Teaching British Values at Larkrise Primary School

The Department for Education state 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.*”

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated in 2014. At Larkrise, these values are reinforced regularly in the following ways:

Democracy

Each year the children decide upon their class rules. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the rules. Classes hold regular circle times to discuss issues that need addressing and make decisions to improve learning, conduct and relationships within the class.

We have thirteen Larkrise Circles which meets regularly to discuss issues related to learning, the extended curriculum, the playground, expectation of behaviour, issues related to healthy life style choices, promoting equality and topics suggested by the staff and children. After the discussions, chaired by the year 6 children, the Circle elect a member/s to represent the view of the circle at the ‘Round-up’ Circle. The Round-up Circle tables suggestions to the Senior leadership Team and effects genuine change within the school.

During the 2015 General Election, the school hosted a mini election. Three parties presented their manifestos which centred on the topic of school uniform. The Freedom Party secured a majority and children voted to maintain the freedom and creativity to choose your own clothes in the morning. This year we will be holding a mini referendum to air our views on whether Britain should remain in or leave the European Union.

Children are regularly consulted in assembly, where they are able to suggest ideas on how the 'Friends of Larkrise' funds are spent.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Larkrise Primary School. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school and how they help us to learn, be safe and stay healthy.

Pupils 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 Larkrise, pupils 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 young pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils 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. They also understand that with rights come responsibilities.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our school. We value each person as a unique individual with special talents and limitless potential. 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. Each year six form students visit from Japan to share their culture and learn about a British school. Larkrise has a long standing link with Jinga SDA, a school in Uganda, and the children in both schools have carried out joint projects on sports, cookery, anti-bullying and singing.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

At Larkrise we actively promote diversity through our 'story-telling curriculum' and celebrations of the rich diversity of different faiths and cultures at our school. During the year we host an 'International Evening' where families

learn about a host of stories and cultures from around the world. Children share their religious practices and festivals, especially enjoying their Eid parties, Christmas parties and participating in our Easter Bonnet Parade, accompanied by our locally renowned samba band.

Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. As a school we work closely with families from different faiths and no faith in order to ensure that all children are included. We believe our rich curriculum, host of after school clubs, educational visits and visitors, along with residential visits help prepare our children to be tolerant of one another and to actively explore the faiths, culture and beliefs of all communities that make up modern Britain and the world.