Sheepy Magna Church of England

Primary School

British Values

and

Christian Values Policy

Headteacher: Alison Field

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Governor: David Wright

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British Values

At Sheepy Magna CE Primary school we actively promote British Values in line with the 2011 Prevent Strategy. These are: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values.

We believe these values to be fundamental human values which we actively promote, alongside our other Christian values: Respect, Hope, Truthfulness, Determination, Forgiveness, Peace, Love and Kindness. Such values are the bedrock of how we believe our pupils should be educated and permeates all aspects of school life.

In Key Stage 1 children are taught about similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods, how changes within living memory reveal changes in national life, and about events beyond living memory that are significant nationally. They also learn about the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national achievements.

In Key Stage 2 children continue to develop their knowledge of British and local history. Periods of British history studied include The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain, Britain's settlement by the Anglo Saxons, the Viking and Anglo Saxon struggle for the kingdom of England and local history.

The school has a yearly focus on the Remembrance Day commemorations where children purchase poppies and a two-minute silence is held in a special assembly.

As a whole school, we celebrate the World Cup, the Olympics and Para Olympics, with Olympic themed sports days and special Olympic weeks.

Royal celebrations play a large part in our curriculum offer for example, the Golden Jubilee or the Queen's birthday.

As a Church school our whole school assemblies are very important to us, and it is here that we regularly uphold the traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance. These are also taught within formal lessons and, indeed, the British values of respect, tolerance and empathy are fostered throughout all of our daily interactions: modelled by staff and nurtured in pupils.

Democracy

We have a School Council body which is made up children who have been voted in by their peers. Each child prepares a short speech outlining why they would like to be on the School Council and then everyone in school has a chance to vote. They meet weekly with a teacher and a governor supporting them. They organise their own chair and take their own minutes. They also decide on key areas of school life that they would like to focus on during their term of office (one academic year). They also manage their own budget and are genuinely able to effect change within the school. They are asked to review certain policies, such as the Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Policies and they also take part in the recruitment of any new staff. We also have other committee structures working within school such as our Eco-Committee and our Peer Support Group. The children are given opportunities to talk to local leaders through Parish Councillors and we take part in Local Democracy Week annually. This is the chance for some children to visit the local council offices and see first-hand how democracy works.

Democracy is explained in assembly and the children are encouraged to follow the news in relation to voting, with children given opportunities to debate the issues currently being addressed. Through our curriculum children are taught about, and encouraged to respect, public institutions and services. Children complete an annual pupil questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school.

The rule of law

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern our home life, our classrooms, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Sheepy School. Our school rules are few but apply to all. These are stated clearly in our Behaviour Management Policy and have been written in conjunction with the children. We also follow our code of RESPECT which is one of our Christian values and is prominently displayed in our entrance Hall. Through our Windows to the World curriculum the children have the opportunity to learn about the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences if they are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police, the Fire Service etc. reinforce this message.

Individual liberty

At Sheepy School children 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 children to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety assemblies and lessons and Windows to the World curriculum. At a primary level children are encouraged to make choices about their learning through our creative, topic approach. Children are also encouraged to express their views whilst also respecting others views and the school are often congratulated on the children's empathy and listening skills by visitors. The children learn about the struggle of other people and communities in Britain and elsewhere for freedom through assemblies and Windows to the World.

Mutual respect

Respect is at the heart of our Sheepy values and is made visible in all that we do. The children have contributed to our Anti-Bulling Policy and we have a Peer Support Group that works amongst them. We teach children that their behaviours have an effect on both themselves and others and we work hard to develop their empathy skills. All members of the school community treat each other with respect regardless of age, experience or role. Respect is consistently reinforced through assemblies, the curriculum and day to day life of working together.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Sheepy School is a diverse school. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Assemblies, Religious Education and Windows to the World all reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. We also endeavour to weave this amongst the everyday curriculum and school life as well. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children take part in activities that are important to different faiths during our special curriculum days, which includes visits to the religious buildings of other faiths and cultures. We support various charities including, Comic Relief, Children in Need and collecting for a local Food Bank at Harvest time.

Christian Values

We believe these values to be fundamental human values which we actively promote, alongside our **8 Christian Values** which are:

Respect

'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.'

(Matthew 7:12)

Our RESPECT code was written in conjunction with the whole school through a series of assemblies and class workshops. It provides the back bone to how we live our lives and how we should behave at home, in school and in the wider curriculum.

Recognise how to behave
Everyone deserves a chance
Share with our friends
Pay attention when someone is speaking
Everyone is the same – we are all brilliant!
Care for others
Treat everyone as you would wish to be treated yourself.

Truthfulness

'Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.'

(John 17:17)

We actively encourage the children to be truthful to one another and also with their parents and the staff. We teach them that by telling the truth they are being respectful towards the other person and their feelings. We talk to them about the importance of being truthful and that it is often less hurtful to tell the truth about something they have done wrong than trying to cover it up. We use Bible stories so that they can begin to understand how it feels to be lied to.

Determination

'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'

(Philippians 4:13)

We encourage the children at Sheepy School to try hard at all they do, whether they find it easy or not. They are also actively encouraged to try new things and be adventurous in their choices: we feel this makes them rounded individuals who are ready for the next exciting stage of their education. Children are rewarded for supporting others in their determination to succeed and the ethos is one of support and help across the whole school both through the children and the staff.

Hope

'But God remembered Noah and the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.'

(Genesis 8:1)

We believe our children should live a life where hope plays a part in their desire to succeed. They should be encouraged to believe with confidence that they are capable of anything they put their minds to and having an optimistic and aspirational view of life and wherever their paths lead them in the future.

Forgiveness

'And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.'

(Mark 11:25)

Forgiveness links very strongly to the teaching of the Lord's Prayer and we try to teach children that although sometimes hard to do, harmony can be restored and relationships can be rebuilt and restored often resulting in a stronger bond.

Peace

'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

(John 14:27)

We are developing our spirituality and finding times in the day to reflect and find the peace within ourselves.

Kindness

'She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.'

(Proverbs 31:26)

We teach and show our pupils to treat everyone they meet with kindness; to try to understand the points of view of others; and to have empathy. We expect all adults in school to teach with kindness and understanding.

Love

'And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

(Colossians 3:18)

We are a family at Sheepy Magna CE Primary School and care about each other and the members of our community. It is this which makes us special.

All of our values were chosen because of the significance in their meaning related to Sheepy School. They were chosen by the children who put a lot of thought into why they are important to Sheepy School as well as how we demonstrate them to ourselves and each other. Our values are displayed clearly around school and the children and parents understand and know why we have them.

'Working Together as a family for all to flourish'

Our Christian Vision:

We are a community that is together; one that nurtures, values and encourages all the children within our care; we are a family that provides every child with enriching opportunities to shine. Most of all, we work together as one to ensure that everyone is cherished and supported to succeed and flourish. We have a strong belief that all things are possible, if there is faith, hope and love.

Our Vision is firmly rooted in Theology. It is supported by meaningful Bible quotes that help our Christian vision themes of Family, inclusion and a belief in one another, be expressed:

Psalm 133:1 "Oh how wonderful, how pleasing it is when all God's people come together as one."
(Family)
Luke 10:27 "Love your neighbour as yourself"
(inclusion)
Matthew 19:26 "With God, all things are possible."
(Self-belief and determination)