



British Modern Values at Rush Common School



Rush Common upholds the Department for Education's five part definition of British Values:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

Democracy

Pupil voice plays a significant role in life at Rush Common. Our pupil elected School Council reflects our British democratic system as well as much of their activity engendering the responsibility for the wider community, for example charity fundraising and making the school a better place to learn. Annually, children are provided with the opportunity to present in order to then have the chance to be voted House Captains, Sports Captains, Digital Leaders and Librarians. These children have a significant impact on the running of the school and they take great pride in their posts. Pupils play an active part in the areas they are learning about, such as in our recent "Big Thinkers" week. They regularly participate in child-led learning opportunities and projects, as well as enrichment days planned throughout the year. Pupil voice is taken into account when planning the curriculum; year group topics are regularly adapted to take into account children's ideas and views. Pupil interviews and questionnaires are also conducted at regular intervals throughout the year and are used to inform School Improvement Planning. There is also a wide range of extra curricular clubs available to children, including a popular Debating Club, which provides opportunity for children to learn how to articulate their own views clearly, whilst showing respect for the beliefs and opinions of others. The school recently held a parliament day where children took part in a range of debates linked to moral and social issues. In addition, our local MP visited the school and explained the role and importance of democracy in Parliament. We welcome visits from members of the community who can inform us more about Britain's democratic system.

The Rule of Law

The understanding of the importance of rules is consistently reinforced throughout our school environment. Through the development of our class codes and lesson success criteria, children have an input into the rules that class are expected to follow. This creates a positive environment, which enables children to understand why these rules are important, and appreciate the consequences if they are not followed. Importantly, this system encourages children to take responsibility for moderating their own behaviour and have ownership of what is expected both inside and outside of school. Our Rush Common Code is displayed in every classroom. This approach is complemented by various assemblies led by staff, Members of Parliament and members of the public, such as the fire brigade, war veterans and the Police, who talk about the Rule of Law in wider contexts. As a result, our children are provided with real-life examples of British Values in action. The Rule of Law is also taught when we focus on the value of responsibility.

Individual Liberty

At Rush Common School we have worked hard, through a focus on 'growth mind-set' to create a safe, supportive and positive learning environment where choice and everyone's views are respected. Through teaching the value of honesty and regular RE, PSHE and termly E-safety lessons (including an E Safety Committee), we help the children to experience a safe environment. This develops pupils' awareness of their rights and personal freedoms, as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely. Our aim is to ensure that our children develop self-confidence and self-esteem linked to their personal faiths and beliefs.

Mutual Respect

Through teaching the values of both respect and understanding, children develop a deep mutual respect for each other's differences. Underpinning the dynamics of each classroom is the class code, which has at its heart, respect for yourself, others and the environment. This is further developed in PSHE lessons where the children see how people can be different and benefit from mutual respect. Our behaviour system is values - driven and underpins all that we do at Rush Common School.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Tolerance comes from understanding what different people believe. Whilst broadly Christian, our Religious Education Curriculum covers all of the major world religions. Faith leaders from two local churches and representatives from various religions, regularly visit lessons to teach and lead assemblies. Parents, children and staff are also encouraged to share their beliefs. Children also often visit local places of worship to provide children with real-life experience of other cultures and faiths. Our children show an active interest in the beliefs of other cultures, through questioning about how these individuals celebrate and what they believe. The topic of tolerance is also included as part of our discussions and assemblies linked to the values of tolerance and peace