British Values
Teaching British Values at St Mark's CE Primary School, Swanage

The Department For Education is currently reinforcing the requirement **"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', '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 were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. Here at St Mark's CE Primary School, these values are explored in worships/assemblies, in lessons, are recognised in our 'Nurture Schools' status and are reinforced regularly in the following ways:

Democracy:
Democracy is high profile within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Pupil Council, pupil questionnaires; parents are heard in our newly established parent forum. The election of class councillors and of House Captains in Year 6 is based solely on pupil votes. Our school values of Love, Trust, Respect and Inspire were chosen through democratic process including children. Children's voice is always heard as part of monitoring work in school. In our Early Years setting, children vote daily for what story is heard at the end of the day. Our children work closely with the town council and the mayor in providing ideas and thoughts for improvements.

The Rule Of Law:
The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced for example when dealing with behaviour and through school worships/assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind 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, etc. are regular parts of our curriculum calendar and help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty:
Within school, 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 pupils to make choices safely, thus our education is empowering our young people. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and we advise how children can exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record or of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. At lunch times children have freedom of choice in respect of the selection of play activities which are on offer.

Mutual Respect:
Our Mission Statement and Behaviour Policy revolve around our school values of Love, Trust, Respect and Inspire, and pupils have been part of discussions and worships/assemblies which focus on what our Mission Statement means and how it is 'lived' in our school. Signage and images around the school promote our school values which are reiterated through our Praise Points Values-based reward system. In our school everyone is equally valued and there is mutual respect in all relationships: staff-staff, staff-parent, governor-child, etc. We encourage everyone to be a 'role model' for mutual respect; we also demonstrate this respect in our charity work.

Tolerance Of Those With Different Faiths And Beliefs:
As a Stonewall accredited school, we believe in acceptance without exception. This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Worships/assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Staff and children are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Space is available for members of all faiths or religions to reflect on their specific faith/belief, safe in the knowledge that they are respected. We are a school which respects all faiths and those with no faith.

(RE = Religious Education; PSHE = Personal, Social and Health Education)