



Ashton West End Primary Academy

Statement of British Values

Mission Statement:

‘Today I am proud of my school,
tomorrow my school will be proud of me.’

At Ashton West End Primary Academy we embrace all cultures and religious beliefs. We ensure that all children feel safe and welcome regardless of faith and religious beliefs. Our school has an excellent platform for embracing differences. We promote British Values through curriculum subjects such as PSHE, RE and Art, and through assemblies, collective worship, stories, school council meetings and additional activities throughout the year. The teaching of these values promotes cohesiveness within our school and community. We prepare pupils for life in England where the population has an increasingly rich diversity of backgrounds, origins, beliefs and cultures. We do this by promoting the values on which our society has been built. It will also strengthen the Spiritual, Moral, Social and cultural (SMSC) aspect by actively promoting the British Values. By teaching pupils these values, we help all to become good citizens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Department for Education states that there is a 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 were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. At Ashton West End Primary Academy, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our school council members. Examples of where democracy is embedded at the school are:

- The learning of the foundations of democracy in History and PSHE
- Pupil’s voice takes place through questionnaires
- Year 6 children vote for the school’s house captains

The Rule Of Law

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout our school day, through our school assemblies and also when dealing with behaviour in school. We encourage our pupils to distinguish right from wrong and help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals. Our 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 the Police, Fire Service etc. also help to reinforce our messages. The rule of law is also taught through PSHE and History lessons when looking at how laws differ between time periods and how they have developed over time.

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 our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our assemblies with Miss Pizuti and our e-safety and PSHE lessons. Through PSHE, RE and History, children look at and understand the consequences of not having these liberties and when conducting investigations in subjects such as Science, History and Geography, children are able to use their independence to find relevant information to make their own decisions. At Ashton West End Primary Academy, children have opportunities for key responsibilities like: being a reading buddy, a play leader, a librarian and a reception helper.

Mutual Respect

British Values are taught through assemblies and PSHE sessions and form a key part of our daily dialogue across school. Respect is promoted across school and it is deeply embedded in all that we do at school. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. In addition to these activities, our children are given regular opportunities to learn in within their community and beyond, each time an emphasis is placed on respecting those with whom they come into contact and their surroundings. At Ashton West End Primary Academy, we respect the life choices of others, respect the environment and challenge stereotypes and prejudices. A wide range of extra-curricular clubs are offered at Ashton West End Primary Academy both at lunchtime and after the school day. These clubs provide another opportunity for mutual respect to be secured in the attitudes of our pupils, both amongst those participating from their own setting, and any visiting staff or teams.

Tolerance of Those With Different Faiths And Beliefs

At Ashton West End Primary Academy, we embed tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs by:

- Visiting a place of worship: Church, Mosque, Synagogue and Temple across the year groups from 1-6.
- Using the RE curriculum to learn about a range of religious beliefs: we compare how they are similar and different to understand more about religious practises.
- Taking part in different religious celebrations. We host assemblies for different religious festivals at the appropriate time in the year: Diwali, Eid, Christmas. We also host whole class assemblies for Chinese New Year, Sukkot and Easter.
- Mentioning regularly in RE lessons that whatever your religion, it is to be respected, and if you do not have a religion that is ok.
- Learning about those without religious beliefs and the moral codes that they follow.
- Making links between faiths.
- Looking at religious beliefs in history.
- Exploring Ideas around diversity, prejudice, bullying in PSHE.