

Promoting British Values at St Oswald's RC Primary School,

South Shields

The DfE have recently reinforced 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 by the Prime Minister this year. At Upton these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

- Democracy:

Democracy is rife within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and pupil questionnaires. Two pupils from each year group, from Year 2 to Year 6 are voted by their peers to represent the class on the School Council. Those Year 6 pupils who wish to be considered for the roles of Head Boy and Head Girl deliver a speech to the whole school, followed by every child having the opportunity to vote for their chosen candidate. Our school Behaviour Policy involves house points as rewards. There are four house groups that the children are members of: Aidan, Bede, Cuthbert and Hilda-our local saints. A postcard is sent to one child in every class, each week to inform parents of a specific positive aspect of the child's behaviour.

- The Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school 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; Fire Service; Lifeguards etc. are regular events in our 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 young pupils to make choices safely, through our provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and RE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of

how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

- **Mutual Respect:**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our Behaviour Policy.

- **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning in our school, for example when we host a Multi-Cultural Week. Through our RE programme, "Come and See" our children learn about another faith each term and this involves visits to local mosques, synagogues and temples.