



Hamsterley Primary School

"Opening Minds, Unlocking Potential, Sharing Success Together"

A Statement on British Values

At Hamsterley Primary School we want our children to learn and grow as individuals and citizens in the community, country and world in which they live. We embrace the belief that at the heart of a modern ever changing, multi-cultural and multi-faith community is the acceptance of key British values, which it is its responsibility to promote.

The school believes that this is something not only achieved through the curriculum, but through the school's core values and ethos as well as its provision for students beyond formal lessons.

Central to the advocacy of British values are the school's

- strategic commitment, purpose and intent
- "Opening minds, unlocking potential, celebrating success"

These guide and drive the direction of the school's improvement, but are also fundamental in supporting the development of British values.

The government set out its definition of "British Values" in its "Prevent Strategy"; values of:

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

Through our RE, PHSE and wider curriculum our pupils:

- are encouraged to be reflective about their own and others' beliefs
- develop an understanding about themselves and others in the world
- recognise the difference between right and wrong and the importance of tolerance and respect for everyone
- understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions and appreciate the viewpoints of others
- are supported in developing a respect for the civil and criminal law of England
- develop their social skills to embrace people from different religions, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds

Democracy

Our school follows the principles of Rights Respecting schools and as such children devise their class, playground and dining room charters. In addition to this our school council ensure pupils' voices are heard. The class council representatives raise pertinent issues and report back to their peers - for example, they use the findings from pupil questionnaires to identify ways in which we can improve elements of school life. They are also actively involved in organising charity events throughout the year. Our range of actions focus on specific issues such as anti-bullying, Fairtrade, Eco issues, equality and disability and promoting healthy lifestyles, both in school and within the wider community.

In these ways, we teach our children how they can influence decision making through a democratic process. They are encouraged to be involved in the decision-making processes. Children have a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services. Within school, pupils are provided with platforms to express their views e.g. discussing current topics in assemblies and class debates and through these we model how perceived injustices can be peacefully challenged.

The Rule of Law

The importance of civil and criminal law is explored through history or enrichment activities. Visits by the local police and other services help our children to understand how these services operate and how they support them and their families and how if necessary they hold people to account. Our pupils benefit from a range of visits during their time at Hamsterley Primary School, for example;

- From community police officers who discuss road safety, stranger danger etc.
- Fire officers
- Child line and community e-safety officers who have strengthened out pupils understanding of how to be safe online
- The school routinely offers advice to parents re incidents concerning e-safety outside school.

Pupils support in the local community in many ways, for example;

- Taking part in our annual Harvest festival at the churches together to provide foodstuff etc. to the foodbank at Bishop Auckland
- Entering items into the Hamsterley Annual Hoppings
- Taking part in the village arts project

Our pupils enrich and understand the importance of looking after their local community.

Individual Liberty

Within our school, children are encouraged to make personal choices in a safe and supportive environment. We support our children to develop self-knowledge; self-esteem and self-confidence in all we do. Because of our school RRS ethos and the work we have done, our children are aware of their rights and personal freedom and the responsibility we must all take for our actions e.g. through e-safety children, are given the ability to make informed safe personal choices. Through the curriculum, children have the opportunity to debate a topic and exercise their right to freedom of speech. During assemblies and through our PHSE curriculum based around the Olympic and Paralympic values, we challenge stereotypes. Children are able to share their concerns informally using the worry box.

Mutual Respect

The core value of our school ethos is 'respect' for ourselves, each other and our environment the importance of mutual respect is emphasised.

Tolerance of those of different beliefs and faiths

Our school community lives and works harmoniously and we welcome pupils from other cultures and faiths. We consider that this diversity enhances our school and deepens our understanding of others. Within school we focus on enhancing our pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place and the place of others in our culturally diverse society. We do this by giving them opportunities to positively experience diversity, e.g. by celebrating and sharing our different faiths and cultures, visits we make to other faith places of worship and through our geography curriculum. Our local, European and international links support this. Through our PSHE and RE curriculum and focus on equality, we discuss differences between people; such as faith; ethnicity; disability; gender or sexuality and different family situations, so that we can encourage critical personal thinking and tolerance. This is not only a feature of PHSE and RE, but of other subject areas too. For example, in Design Technology lessons students learn about different cultures through studying themes such as cooking different foods.

Lynn Cowans - Headteacher

Mark den Hollander - Chair of Governors

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