

BRITISH VALUES IN ENGLISH

At Inmans Primary School we are dedicated to promoting values which ensure that our pupils develop a strong sense of social and moral responsibility. We prepare our pupils for life in Modern Britain because values such as individual liberty, democracy, the law, mutual respect and tolerance are embedded within the curriculum and the school ethos. In addition, these values are promoted at various times throughout the school year.

Within English, British values are promoted and explored in a variety of ways. The study of non-fiction texts provides pupils and teachers with the opportunity to address topical issues and consider different social, political, religious and cultural attitudes and contexts. The ethos is always to respect the views of individuals and provide a learning environment in which pupils feel able to express themselves freely yet respectfully. The study of literature goes hand-in-hand with exploration of different people, places and social groups and as such promotes understanding and tolerance.



Tolerance

The English curriculum promotes the British values of tolerance and resilience on a daily basis. Being able to empathise with others and examine situations and settings outside of our individual experience is an explicitly taught skill. In addition to curriculum content, the methods employed in English lessons encourage tolerance and respect. Pupils are expected to listen to and respect each other during group discussions and debate and to work co-operatively in pursuit of common goals.



Mutual Respect

Pupils work together in all areas of the curriculum to support each other and build mutual respect for one another. They behave appropriately, allowing all participants the opportunity to work effectively. They take turns and share ideas working collaboratively.



Individual Liberty

We aim to support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence across the English curriculum with a focus on pupils developing own self-discipline by replacing rules with values and adopting these independently. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights. Freedom of speech is modelled through pupil participation, while ensuring protection of vulnerable pupils and promoting critical analysis of evidence.



Democracy

In English lessons we aim to provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of and promote respect for decision-making through the democratic process. We encourage and help pupils to express their views, through reflection, group discussion and Circle Time. They take into account the views of others in written and oral discussions and can support and justify their views.



The Rule of Law

Social education in English includes topics such as anti-bullying, social differences, our individual responsibilities and areas such as physical disability. We consider how people might be manipulated or affected by texts and how they might react, from challenging to seeking escapism. We also help pupils understand the democratic process and how they might both appreciate the rule of law and develop their own voice and opinions.



Spiritual Development in English

The English curriculum promotes a range of literature that develops spiritual understanding through discussion and debate. The study of texts like this gives pupils the opportunity to think about consequences of right and wrong behaviour, applying this to their own lives. Creative writing and the study of poetry gives pupils the opportunity to reflect on their own beliefs and helps them to establish their own relationship with language. Writing is expressive and allows for a reflective process and the freedom to be creative and experiment.

Moral Development in English

Moral education in English includes topics such as fairness and equality, as well as appreciating more abstract qualities, such as justice and responsibility. We look at how conventions might be used within close reading of texts, such as in advertising, as well as the ethical dilemmas raised. We also look more generally at texts and how they both represent and challenge fundamental British values. Pupils are able to analyse character and events to explore the consequences of negative actions. During the study of fiction, pupils are given the opportunity to consider different perspectives and empathise with other characters. Writing non-fiction texts, such as newspaper articles, leaflets, reports and reviews help to develop pupils' ability to apply fiction to real life scenarios.

Social Development in English

English lessons promote cooperation and teamwork through being able to work in groups, listening to presentations and asking questions. Real issues encourage pupils to think about the world outside of school and give opinions on topics that may affect them in the future. We also give pupils the opportunity to speak in different contexts and regarding a range of different real-life issues. Peer assessment is an integral part of our teaching and we encourage focused feedback between pupils, whereby they support and encourage each other, reflecting and giving advice using their own method of success. Pupils are all given the opportunity to be independent, self-reliant and responsible for their own learning. Debate is an important aspect of the subject, giving logical arguments with respect, rationality and thoughtfulness.

Cultural Development in English

Pupils learn about respecting others through the study of poetry from different cultures. Many poems deal with conditions faced by those in impoverished or less fortunate situations. Pupils are able to appreciate different cultures and empathise. Speaking and listening activities promote the opportunity to share their own experiences and appreciate other pupils' perspectives and experiences. Theatre trips and visits from published authors give all pupils the opportunity to access cultural activity, alongside the viewing of DVDs of plays in performance, which otherwise some pupils may not have the opportunity to experience.