

Preston Manor Upper School

How we explore British Values?

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 this year (2014). At Preston Manor these values are reinforced regularly through a whole school approach as well as through the Citizenship department. Citizenship is taught throughout key stages 3, 4 and 5. The curriculum covers all topics suggested in the latest curriculum 2014 review and seeks to develop student's enquiry skills through the process of exploring the weekly citizenship registration and citizenship lessons.

Introduction

Preston Manor School's Latin motto, *munus prae jure*, translates to 'responsibilities before rights' or 'duties before rights', and this has long been part of the school's ethos. Our status as a Co-operative Trust Academy also places an emphasis on embracing the British and Co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. We also recognise the importance of the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of all learners and this is at the heart of our school ethos and practice.

Democracy

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a whole School Council and Year Councils for each year group which meet regularly. The Whole School Council is attended by a designated member of the SLT to discuss issues raised in class and year council meetings. Year Council meetings are attended by PSAs and DSDs and ADSDs attached to these year groups. Each Council is able to genuinely effect change within the school. Two representatives from each year council are voted by their peers to represent their year group at the Whole School Council.

Form groups conduct a number of elections for class representatives, Literacy lead learners, Jack Petchey Award winners and Citizenship lead learners. The Citizenship lead learners are given the responsibility of leading the learning of the whole class on weekly topics. These topics cover all elements of the citizenship national curriculum and adhere closely with the DfE framework.

The School also sends two representatives to the Brent Youth Parliament who are chosen based on their contribution to the Whole School Council the previous year. They serve for one year in this role.

Hustings and elections also take place each September for the election of Head Girl and Head Boy and their Deputies.

Democracy within the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum:

Students complete lessons focused on the following areas:

- The process of voting and elections
- The role of Political Parties
- Political parties in the UK

- Democracy versus dictatorship
- Benefits of being a UK Citizen
- The British Monarchy

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. Students 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 help reinforce this message.

The Rule of Law within the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum:

Students complete lessons focused on the following areas:

- Law and justice
- Animal rights and the law
- The role of the police
- Legal systems in the UK
- Law and Society – The London Riots
- Human Rights
- Crime and the Individual
- Crime and the law
- Gun and knife crime

Individual Liberty

Within school, students 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 students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, students are given the freedom to make choices.

Individual liberty in the PSHE and citizenship curriculum:

Students complete lessons focused on the following areas:

- The rights of the child
- Know your own human rights
- Keeping safe and consequences
- Online encounters
- Where do I go to find help?

Mutual Respect

As a Rights Respecting School, mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Collective acts of remembrance happen every year as part of Remembrance Day. This also extends into other key areas of respect and tolerance such as AID's Awareness Day, Refugee Week, Anti Bullying month and Black History Month. All of these key events are marked within the school community and embody links made with other organisations and national awareness platforms.

Mutual Respect in the PSHE and citizenship curriculum:

Students complete lessons focused on the following areas:

- Sense of self
- Respecting equality and diversity
- Working together to improve communities
- Amnesty International project
- Community cohesion

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Preston Manor is situated in an area which is culturally diverse, therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE, PSHE and citizenship teaching reinforce this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

Preston Manor share a learning identity. One of the elements of Preston Manors learning identity is collaboration. We use this to encourage tolerance and respect between our students across all subject areas.

Students have a thought of the day which is shared during registrations every morning. This encourages students knowledge and personal reflections on the topics of tolerance, the diversity of faith and beliefs as well as community.

At Preston Manor we will actively challenge students, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views. In instances where 'extremist' views are encountered, the School will refer to the Local Authority's Prevent Strategy and will act as necessary.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs within the citizenship curriculum:

Students complete lessons focused on the following areas:

- Immigration
- Respecting equality and diversity
- Cultural celebrations

Conclusion

Preston Manor places great emphasis on the teaching of British values.

