

Actively promoting British Values at Greenmount

In line with the with the Department for Education's five-part definition, we promote the following British values at Greenmount Primary School;

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

At Greenmount Primary School pupils will encounter these principles throughout everyday school life. In particular, our promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding is where these values are explicitly taught in a range of ways including through circle times and special days. Additionally, the values are taught in R.E and interwoven within our curriculum which gives children real and meaningful opportunities to explore these values. At Greenmount Primary School, we are certain that the active promotion of British Values means that children are enabled to develop a sense of community and begin to develop their understanding of their role and responsibilities within it.

Democracy

Children in school learn about the roots of the democratic process in Ancient Greece, about Parliament in Westminster and about the art of debating, with opportunities to debate current issues themselves. Pupil voice is significant at Greenmount. We have two school-based councils: School Council and the Eco Council. Our pupil elected councils plays a strong role in our school. They are elected by their class peers and are involved in making the school a better place to learn. The pupil's voice is also heard through pupil conferencing and through pupil questionnaires.

Our School Council is very proactive in having its voice heard. Recent school council activities have included;

- a major audit and review of playtimes, resulting in the fund raising and purchase of new play equipment
- Youth Summit to help Leeds City Council to decide where funding should be spent.

In addition, the school council organises our charity work throughout the year. This includes fun days such as dressing in yellow or spots for Children in Need and running a mile for Sports Relief. This fostering of a commitment to charities is another way in which we teach a sense of Britishness.

The Eco Council works to protect and enhance both our school and the wider environment and highlights sustainability issues. The Eco Council works to make positive "green" changes to our school by suggesting ideas to help the school save energy and resources.

Recent Eco council activities have included

- lights and equipment are switched off when not in use,
- the annual RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch.
- Litter picking and work in the local community with Ed Carlise (Local Green MP)

The Rule of Law

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to.¹ This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies, in classes, around the school and through our curriculum.

Children are taught the importance of rules and laws and how the ones in school reflect those in our country. Children are taught the reasons behind rules and that they are there to keep us safe and happy. The whole school follows the Greenmount Code and positive behaviour reinforcements are operated throughout the school. By treating each other how we would want to be treated, we can live in harmony. Visits from authority figures in society such as the fire brigade, the local community police officers, doctors, dentists, nurses,

religious leaders, MPs and governors demonstrate to children how rules and laws are an integral part of a safe and happy Britain.

Individual Liberty

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged and valued. We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests and skills. At Greenmount, we believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives.

Mutual respect

Greenmount Primary is a wonderfully culturally diverse school with a highly regarded inclusive ethos and practice. We are a microcosm of British society and we celebrate this. Our children are taught and know how to show respect to everyone no matter what our differences may be. We celebrate this diversity in our curriculum. Examples include our celebrations of different religious festivals throughout the year, the participation of all our children, including those with disability, in all our curriculum activities. Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. The children learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the School and in the classrooms. Children are encouraged to showcase their work and celebrate success. Through Equality and Diversity Days, E-Safety Days and Anti- Bullying week, the children are taught to value differences in themselves and others and most importantly to show respect to all.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Greenmount Primary School follows the Leeds RE agreed syllabus which ensures that all children learn about the main religions and teaches respect and understanding for the cultures, beliefs, opinions and traditions of others. Class assemblies also help to contribute to the knowledge of special occasions, beliefs and customs.

Additionally, Equality and Diversity Days give children the opportunity to enhance their understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. We celebrate the diversity of our school through participating in various themed days such as Mother Tongue Day, World Afro Day and through links with Matiri Primary School in Kenya, the local Care home and local communities such as the Church and the Mosque.

We use opportunities such as the current news, weekly Primary News updates, and through celebrating events from around the world, locally, nationally and globally on different themed days to help the children study and learn about life and cultures in different countries.

Preventing radicalisation and extremism

What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes. The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including political, religious and misogynistic extremism. How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools? From July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism. This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence. Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so they better understand how to protect themselves.

What does this mean in practice?

Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy.

These include:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy.

We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with pupils (safeguarding procedures). Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does Prevent relate to British values? Schools have been required to promote British values since 2014, and this will continue to be part of our response to the Prevent strategy.

British values include:

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

Isn't my child too young to learn about extremism?

The Prevent strategy is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. It is also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect. We will make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the children involved.

Is extremism really a risk in our area?

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and misogynistic extremism. We will give children the skills to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

KEY TERMS

Extremism – vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Ideology – a set of beliefs

Terrorism – a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause

Radicalisation – the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism

Where to go for more information:

You will find more details about prevent in our safeguarding policy, available on this website. We also have information about spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and British values. Please contact school if you have any questions or concerns about the Prevent strategy and what it means for your child.