

Baycroft School British Values Statement



The DfE 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.'

At Baycroft School we promote these values through a broad and balanced curriculum and through a wide range of extra-curricular or enrichment activities which, we believe, support the development of the 'whole child'.

Democracy

Students at Baycroft are encouraged to voice their opinions and contribute their ideas on the life of the school. Our school council and school governors are elected democratically at the start of each year, they meet regularly to discuss a variety of school issues and new initiatives and has a budget to spend as it sees fit. Students are encouraged to voice their attitudes to learning in all subjects through interview questionnaires with school staff and governors. Parents and staff are surveyed annually and the results are used to inform school improvement planning. Parents views are also sought by the child and family liaison officer. All of the children learn about government, democracy and current affairs through regular assemblies and through citizenship lessons.

Rule of Law

Through Assemblies and the school's citizenship curriculum, children develop an understanding of the law, appropriate to their age and stage of development. High quality texts allow children the opportunity to explore the 'breaking' of laws and the chance to discuss consequences when this happens. Students are taught explicitly that laws keep us safe and children are encouraged to think about their own and others' safety in and outside school. Visits from outside agencies such as the magistrates, fire service, police force and health and social workers reinforce the children's understanding of the responsibilities held by various professions in upholding the law, helping them and keeping them safe. Our Positive Behaviour Policy supports children in their learning about right and wrong and the importance of rules or following a expectations of code of conduct. The policy is visible in all areas of the school and consistently applied by staff, with opportunities constantly being sought to praise and reward positive choices. Students who demonstrate appropriate behaviour for learning are recognised through a variety of rewards and held up as role models for others. When poor choices are made there is always time for children to reflect and discuss strategies they may use to improve their behaviour and to restore relationships.

Individual Liberty

Baycroft students learn about freedom of speech and expression, through assemblies and citizenship sessions and tutor sessions, particularly Circle Time. They learn to value difference and diversity and a wide range of extra-curricular/enrichment activities enables them to try new things and move out of their comfort zones.

Students are encouraged to become good citizens and supported to become as independent as possible. They are taught that that everyone has rights, including the right to say 'no' when appropriate. They also understand that with rights come responsibilities.

At Baycroft we encourage children to value the individual liberties they enjoy, by participating in charitable events such as Comic Relief and Children in Need, all of which help them to appreciate that there are children locally, nationally and internationally who face a wide range of challenges in their lives.

Mutual Respect

Respect is one of our high values and as such is a cornerstone of our Positive Behaviour Policy. Mutual respect is modelled by all adults at Baycroft towards each other and the children, providing students with strong role models from whom to learn.

We work closely with our parents in order to achieve consistency in the values promoted at school and at home. We regularly invite the parent community in for workshops and special events to strengthen the consistency of the messages expressed in our values.

We promote values around friendship, positive communication and mutual respect as part of our day to day practice and use the annual anti-bullying week to reinforce this.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

RE lessons at Baycroft teach the children about all the major religions of the world and these are celebrated throughout the year.

Assemblies contribute to the children's knowledge and understanding of special events in the religious calendar of all the major religions. The school has strong links with local Christian churches, and attend services throughout the year as a whole community.

Resources in our classrooms and the school library are carefully chosen to ensure they reflect our multi-cultural society and any cultural or racial stereotypes are challenged.

The children are at the centre of everything we do at Baycroft School it is our duty to prepare them for successful lives as adults living in Britain. By promoting British values, we enable children to develop a sense of community and to understand their responsibilities and roles within that community.