



Britishness at Withington C of E Primary and Pre-school.

There has been much media interest during the last year over the concept of Britishness in our schools, and this has been further highlighted in a statement from our Prime Minister. Accordingly, we felt that it was appropriate to set out how 'Britishness' is taught and reinforced and encouraged at Withington Primary and Pre-school.

'Democracy': Democracy is core to our school Christian Ethos. Children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, choice of clubs and pupil questionnaires. Our Collective Worship themes such as cooperation reinforce this. Elections for School Council representatives are undertaken every year. Children are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where children are able to debate various issues. Our school motto 'Caring for Each Other' reinforces this.

'The Rule of Law': The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced in our expectations throughout every school day. Our Collective Worship themes such as obedience reinforce this. Children 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 and Fire Service etc help reinforce this message.

'Individual Liberty': Within school, children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Our PSHE policy underpins and supports this decision making and enables children to make the right choices. It also gives them the vocabulary to enter into a dialogue with others in their decision making. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. We teach children that it is fine to have rethinks. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record their work or participation in extracurricular clubs

'Mutual Respect': We use children's skills, interests and talents as a basis of all we do. We appreciate everyone is different but this approach celebrates those differences. We treat each other with mutual respect and work in a climate where openness, trust and inclusion lay the foundations for their future life. All classes have regular circle time. These are used to discuss various issues.

Our Christian values underpin all aspects of school life and give staff and children the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the values in life that they believe in. It is our values that determine our thinking and behaviour and the way we interpret the world around us. We try to help children learn the art of reflection and questioning to enable them to make sense of the world around them.





'Tolerance of those in Different Faiths and Beliefs': This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Collective Worship and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in PSHE etc. Children are taught about different religions in RE lessons and visits to different places of worship take place within these lessons.

KS2 have been taught 'Britishness' and topics covered have included: The Union Flag, things which are typically British, meanings of words, and the design of posters displaying Britishness.

We 'celebrate' particular days like St. George's day, election day, and ensure the children understand the traditions behind these days. We also use opportunities such as the Golden Jubilee to talk about the Royal family and British traditions (e.g. garden parties.)

