



Romsey Abbey Church of England British Values Statement

Our school is committed to actively promoting British values to ensure our pupils leave us fully prepared for life in modern Britain. The government emphasises that all schools should ensure that they teach pupils about British values. We take every opportunity to promote the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Through the promotion of these values, our school aims to ensure pupils:

- Understand the democratic process and how citizens can have a say in decision making.
- Recognise the advantages of living under the rule of law and how law is essential for a safe society.
- Understand that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary and why it exists.
- Understand the reasons for accountability of institutions and why courts maintain independence.
- Know why freedom of religion protects all faiths, as well as those with no faith.
- Accept that people who hold different religious beliefs should be tolerated and not discriminated against.
- Value the importance of identifying and combatting extremism.

We promote British values both within and beyond the classroom and these values are at the heart of our ethos. Here are just some of the ways our school seeks to embed the teaching of British values.

Democracy

The children at Romsey Abbey CE Primary see democracy borne out in a whole variety of ways and see this as being an essential component of successful team working. Democracy is talked about regularly when discussing respect and fairness.

The establishment of a new School Council each year models the democratic process as does the election of a Head Boy and Head Girl from Year 6.

Children are able to work cooperatively in pairs and groups as well as in whole class situations. They understand about turn taking and respecting the views of others.

Children are taught the key skills of effective debating around a range of topics and issues and are able to disagree with one another in **a respectful and constructive manner.**

The rule of law

The children at Romsey Abbey CE Primary are familiar with this concept through the discussion of values and, in RE lessons, the idea that different religions have guiding principles. Children are used to debating and discussing laws/rules and their application. Children are familiar with the local police who visit to talk to them informally.

School rules are embedded in our behaviour policy and link closely to our Habits of Mind (learning to learn). These are on display in classrooms. Class rules are established at the beginning of the year and may be in addition to the whole school rules.

Children are able to articulate how and why we need to behave in school and demonstrate they understand and can abide by these. They are able to discuss and debate philosophical issues in relation to these.

Individual liberty

During the first term of every school year our Jigsaw curriculum focus is, "Being Me in my World" and the discussions and acts of worship enable the children see that they are important in their own right. The philosophy of our teaching and learning places emphasis on the right to have our own thoughts and evidence based views. Children are strongly encouraged to develop independence in learning and to think for themselves.

Children are able to show independence in learning and to think for themselves as they demonstrate the Habits of Mind, particularly curiosity and self-management.

Children understand about the importance of accepting responsibility and of their right to be heard in school. They are consulted on many aspects of school life and demonstrate independence of thought and action.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

As a Church of England School our values are that we are, "Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, with love, trust and forgiveness." These values ensure we pay explicit attention to showing mutual respect and tolerance to those with different faiths and beliefs or with none. This takes place as part of our RE, PHSE, and SMSC curriculum and can often be touched on in our daily collective worship. During the second half of the autumn term as part of our Jigsaw PSHE curriculum we focus on Celebrating Difference. The lesson planning for this is in our Jigsaw class file and evidence of this in children's topic books. Governors carry out learning walks with the Headteacher to evidence this.

