

# LETHBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## VALUES EDUCATION POLICY

### **Introduction of a Values – based education**

Values Education was introduced as a whole school initiative in September 2011 embracing 22 values on a two year cycle. In November 2012 we proudly achieved the Quality Mark as a 'values based School' following validation by Dr Neil Hawkes.

### **Aim of Values-based education**

To raise standards by promoting a school ethos and vision; this is underpinned by core values supporting the development of the whole child as a reflective learner.

### **Rationale**

At Lethbridge Primary School we give a great deal of thought to the values that we are trying to promote. We regularly consider our core values and how the school sustains an ethos which supports the pupil as reflective learner and promotes quality teaching and learning. We are very much aware that society is faced with enormously complicated problems which make growing up a difficult process. Children are constantly bombarded with negative messages that adversely affect their mental, emotional and spiritual development. Also, they are repeatedly being given the impression that happiness is totally obtainable from a material world. They are conditioned to believe that 'things' will provide happiness.

Children are generally encouraged to experience life in a world totally external to their inner selves: a world which is full of noise and constant activity. Impressions of society being violent and selfish leave their mark as the child develops into adolescence. Symptoms of pupil stress are revealed when children find it difficult to listen attentively and to give schoolwork their full concentration. Social relationships suffer as the child often fails to appreciate that building meaningful relationships is their responsibility.

As a school community, we believe the vision and ethos of the school should be based on a foundation of core values such as *honesty, respect, happiness, responsibility, tolerance and peace*. These will at times be addressed directly through lessons and the acts of worship programme, but they will permeate the whole curriculum. They are the basis for the social, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and moral development of the child. We encourage pupils to consider these values, thereby developing knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to develop as reflective learners and grow to be stable, educated and civilised adults.

### **Elements of teaching and learning**

The elements of values education are as follows:

- ❖ We ensure that our school's institutional values are consistent with the values that pupils are encouraged to develop.
- ❖ We actively promote a whole-school policy that has the support of all staff and is led and monitored by the headteacher.

- ❖ We have a programme of school assemblies that introduce termly values. Pupils are also encouraged to be involved in exploring their understanding of values in pupil-led assemblies.
- ❖ We directly teach values in values lessons. These lessons provide opportunities for personal reflection and moral discourse, and include an appropriate activity to promote understanding. Teaching and learning about values takes place in the following steps:
  1. Teachers explain the meaning of a value.
  2. Pupils reflect on the values and relate it to their own behaviour.
  3. Pupils use the value to guide their own actions.
- ❖ We ensure that staff model the values through their own behaviour.
- ❖ We also ensure that values are taught implicitly through every aspect of the curriculum.

### **Recognising and Rewarding Others**

In January 2015 we introduced a Values Recognition and Reward system. Children are asked to recognise and reward others demonstrating values. We have a whole school display of the names of children who have been nominated for demonstrating our termly values. Children who nominate and those nominated are rewarded.

### **British Values**

We value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all our pupils and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate these. Such experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom, teach tolerance and respect for the differences but also the similarities in our local and national community and the wider world. Through the curriculum we plan lessons, visits and learning experiences which make strong, explicit links to the British Empire. We actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

The government define these values as:

- ❖ Democracy
- ❖ Rule of Law
- ❖ Individual liberty
- ❖ Mutual respect
- ❖ Tolerance of those of different faiths

To promote these values:

- ❖ We have an elected School Council where pupils voices are heard
- ❖ Our collective worship calendar actively promotes these values through the use of SMSC and RE objectives. We have visiting faith leaders who conduct weekly assemblies and we also attend the local churches at harvest and Christmas. We also use the local places of worship for visits to enhance the curriculum. We have a Values working group in school
- ❖ We celebrate and support many local, national and international initiatives to promote the values of tolerance, empathy and challenge stereotypes.
- ❖ Pupils 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, Fire Service, etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help

reinforce this message. In the broad and balanced curriculum that we deliver there is opportunity to discuss these.

- ❖ Pupils are actively encouraged and supported to make informed choices, to know and exercise their rights and personal freedom, but safely for example through our e-safety policy.
- ❖ Our positive behaviour policy encourages tolerance and mutual respect.
- ❖ As a whole school we have celebrated and marked special local and national occasions
- ❖ Whole School Remembrance Service.

### **Parents as partners**

We believe that sharing our values work with parents/carers is essential in supporting the children in their journey through school. We acknowledge and understand the importance of the role that parents/carers have to play and therefore appreciate the need to inform them of the values work that we do. We will ensure that:

- ❖ We share two values at the beginning of each term through the school website and through newsletters.
- ❖ We will share resources we use with the children so that values work can be followed up at home.
- ❖ Parents/carers have access to information via the school website so they can fully understand the principles behind Values-based education.
- ❖ Parents/carers are aware of and can celebrate the values work we have done through activities being shared on the school website and through invitation to experience values work in school, such as in class assemblies and open afternoons.

***Reviewed September 2015***

***To be reviewed September 2017***