

SMSC and Promoting British Values

Children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is of utmost importance to everyone working at Bede Burn Primary School. We believe that building a child's SMSC skills and understanding are every bit as important as academic knowledge. Our aim is for our pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain. Our values and ethos can be summarised as follows (available on our website):

Bede Burn Primary School is a very happy, caring, supportive place to learn and grow. We promote tolerance of others, the mutual respect for beliefs and ideas, and encourage the skill of informed and respectful debate. We provide a broad curriculum and we value creativity and innovation. Energy, passion and praise are found here in abundance, as well as a love of learning.

We encourage a strong sense of collaboration within school, as well as with our families and our global community. We know the importance of contributing to our community as well as appreciating the support from others, including our Governors, parents, grandparents and Bede Burn Buddies group. We offer a wide range of clubs to our pupils, as well as visitor opportunities and other curriculum-enriching activities such as our international links. We have achieved international recognition for our amazing singing efforts and we look forward to continuing this success throughout this year and beyond.

We inspire our pupils to achieve, and have high expectations for all of our children; we aim to instil the belief that we are all capable of anything, with hard work and perseverance. We embrace challenges, safe in the knowledge that mistakes are simply opportunities to improve further. Our aim is for our children to leave Year 6 with everything they need for success in their bright futures, including a broad academic knowledge, respect for themselves and others, confidence and a host of fond memories.

We strongly believe that by promoting the children's self confidence, be it in academic, sporting or artistic activities, our pupils will reach their full potential. We are proud of our achievements – our children shine brightly.

We think big – we dream big – and we go for it.

Our school's key aims are taken from the DFE's aims for all children nationally.

(SMSC - Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools-November 2014)

Our aims are to:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand
- how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation
- of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people; and
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis
- on which the law is made and applied in England

The curriculum is a tool which enables us to look at natural features of the British landscape, famous British people and aspects of British life both past and present. We make sure that within the curriculum there are opportunities to learn about key historical events or people who changed or influenced laws.

As well as this, we cover the 5 areas of British Values.

Democracy:

Democracy is promoted within the school. Examples include...

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council. We also encourage children to share their views during pupil chats held with Senior Leaders. At these meetings, children have an opportunity to talk with staff openly and share with them achievements and concerns.

To establish our house captains and school council members, we held school elections. Parents are asked each year to complete a questionnaire to share their views about the school.

The Rule of Law:

Our school behaviour policy helps us to teach the children the behaviour rules of our school. Our School's 'Bedeburn Be' rules are regularly shared with the children and are part of our behaviour policy. These are:

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We also have our 'classroom code', which has rules for learning. This is regularly referred to by staff and pupils. We regularly take opportunities in weekly assemblies to share key behaviour rules: the importance of right from wrong; making choices about our behaviour and consequences of poor behaviour. Pupils are also taught the value and reasons behind laws; the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken both in the real world and in the school. Visits from authorities such as the Police and the Fire Service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. We also cover different types of rules within the curriculum. Examples of these are: e-safety assemblies and anti-bullying.

Individual Liberty:

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely. This is reflected in the decisions they make about their behaviour and their learning.

Mutual Respect:

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how we can be respectful every day. Respect has also been a theme for awards in celebration assembly. In RE, we have dealt with the issues of respecting others, learning about different backgrounds and beliefs. We teach about tolerance and understanding and we learn about other children's cultures and religions, for example through our links with our sister school in China. We have encouraged children to ask respectful questions which help us to find out more about individuals and groups of people who belong within our school community. We aim to hold a country of the month assembly which teaches about different countries and traditions.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

Being in a school which is culturally diverse, we work closely with pupils to help them understand their place in a culturally diverse society. We have taken part in 'show Racism the Red Card' day. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and racism and have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Each year group will cover different religions and will visit places of worship. We also invite in visitors to talk about their religions. We cover British Values, where we look at all the different groups who live in Britain and the United Kingdom and how our school is a reflection of this.

Below is a list of some of the ways that we promote SMSC and British Values; having said this, it is an integral part of everything we do and is most evident through walking our corridors and talking to our pupils.

- Visit from footballing freestyler Colin Nell, promoting perseverance and belief in yourself – followed up in assemblies and awards ceremonies
- Our school vision has been rewritten this year, with contributions sought and received from parents, pupils, governors and all staff – we now have joint ownership of a shared vision, displayed across school and referred to
- Our classroom code is displayed across school and encourages pupils to embrace challenges, have confidence, and so on
- Our school council and house captains have been elected by their peers, promoting democracy
- Our older children know their school council representatives, to take any issues or ideas to – recently a school newspaper was suggested and is being developed
- Our house teams, house competitions and buddy systems (Reception buddies and reading buddies) promote cross-year group work and belonging
- We read aloud to our classes every day, and discuss the dilemmas and events of the characters – this intentionally often covers SMSC areas in a way which builds understanding of social and moral issues as well as reading comprehension
- Many of our topics offer opportunities for pupils to explore SMSC and British Values within a context (separate document available)
- This year our children helped to plan and complete our ‘Christmas in a Box’ project, whereby we worked with a local church to identify elderly people in need in our immediate local area, then took children into the community to deliver them
- Our annual Grandparents’ concert promotes giving thanks to our elder relatives and allows children to shine on stage
- Our annual Christmas concerts and choir concerts allow pupils to develop confidence in performing
- Special days eg ‘Show Racism the Red Card’ day and ‘Children in Need’ day promote positive action to help communities
- We hold close international links with our sister school in China and children benefit from their regular visits
- Our Friday celebration assemblies have been developed to promote achievement and celebration of success (bean bags, ‘waiter service’, congratulations message on Seesaw)
- Seesaw, our online learning platform, allows pupils and parents to have a greater voice and partnership in learning within school
- Parents and pupils also voice their views through our regular questionnaires
- The Government's [Prevent Duty guidance](#) recommends building pupils’ resilience to radicalisation by:
 - providing a safe environment for **debating controversial issues**
 - helping them to understand how they can **influence and participate in decision-making**.
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Current plans include:

- A follow-on project from 'Christmas in a Box', involving our local community in concerts, reading, games etc – there is a local hall not in use and the school council are in discussion currently
- Giving each class a British Value to study in more detail, celebrated during British Values week alongside other events aimed at learning about Britain (Democracy, The rule of law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect, Tolerance of other faiths and beliefs)
- Extra assemblies planned for each week, including country of the month assemblies where we look at language, culture, tradition, etc
- We will celebrate 'pay it forward' week in April by encouraging pupils to do good deeds for others
- Half-termly festival studies across school, sharing results with other children and parents
- School council development whereby everyone contributes – staff are currently exploring this model

British Values week (Summer Term):

- Learn about the class' designated British Value
- Reception: learn about the Queen and design and created their own England flags. Also write lists of what they would like to bring to our school English tea party which takes place at the end of the week.
- Year One: learn about (and do portraits of) the Royal Family.
- Year Two: learn about famous British authors and famous people in British history for example, Florence Nightingale. They also learn about the Prime Minister and his role within the government.
- Year Three: learn about the Houses of Parliament and also look at British charities like the Red Cross. Find out how and when they were set up and what their purpose is. They looked at how to help within their community.
- Year Four: learn how to debate. Learnt about Victorian values, rules within society and within our school. They talked about the general election and debated key issues that matter to them.
- Year Five: look at multicultural Britain. Each child to develop a 'respect' mascot and have to explain why they had chosen that mascot. Look at a range of faith beliefs and those without faith.
- Year Six: also look at multicultural Britain and start to learn about the general election process.
- Older children have a visit from an MP. The children to ask questions about education. Possible visit to the Town Hall.
- All of the children to make very British food: scones, orange juice and triangular sandwiches etc