

## Promoting British Values and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

### **Promoting British Values**

The Department for Education published a document in 2014 called 'Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural curriculum) in schools. The document 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 Melbourne Community Primary School, we value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all pupils and families and celebrate the individuality of each child. We support every child to grow to adulthood, able to live in a multi-cultural society with positive attitudes to themselves and others and be able to make a valuable contribution to society.

Our broad and balanced curriculum ensures that every child develops spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. We value these aspects of the curriculum and always endeavour to promote them in all we do.

### **Spiritual Development**

We encourage spiritual development through a broad range of assemblies and lessons which allow time for thought and reflection. We teach the children to understand that people have different faiths and beliefs and that all are valued and respected. We celebrate different views and ways of thinking. Our PSHE lessons promote discussion and enquiry as well as tolerance and kindness.

### **Moral Development**

Through discussions, stories and drama, we teach the children to think about different situations, with empathy. They are taught to consider right from wrong and through open ended questions we encourage children to think carefully about the choices they make. We use circle times as the firm base upon which to safely explore and develop our own views and beliefs, encouraging the right for each child to have an opinion and teaching tolerance towards those whose opinions may vary greatly from our own.

### **Social Development**

Our school focuses on the importance of being honest, making good choices and the need to always show everybody within our school family kindness and respect. Respect is something we work tirelessly to embed within the children's psyche, so that right from the moment they enter our school they understand that everybody has a right to feel safe and valued, and that everybody's voice needs to be heard. We feel passionate about ensuring

by the time a child leaves our care in Year Six, we have given them a good platform to move onto the next stage in their life with confidence and self belief. To feel able to make good sound choices, and just as importantly have the skills to deal with the challenges that life may throw at them.

### **Cultural Development**

We teach the children about their own and other cultures. We embrace our wider community which helps our children to understand their locality and all it has to offer. We learn about other places as well as where we live. Every child from Year 1 to Year 6 is learning to speak French and Spanish, alternately on a year to year basis; and has teaching session each week exploring the language and culture. Every year our Year 5 and 6 children take part in the Humberside Police Lifestyle awards, many winning some of the larger prizes for their work for their communities.



### **Our Values and Aims**

We believe that it is our duty to nurture, guide and support each individual child, so that they achieve as highly as possible, and become a caring and productive member of their community. To achieve this, our specific aims are:

- To support every member of our school community to be the best that they can be
- To create a special place where special things happen
- To ensure that every member of our school works as a team for the good of all
- To ensure that mutual respect and equality of opportunity lies at the heart of all that we do
- To give all children and staff the opportunity to make a positive contribution to their school
- To develop lively, enquiring, imaginative and creative minds
- To demand exemplary behaviour, politeness and attention to task
- To support pupils to achieve the highest possible standards across the whole curriculum

- To ensure that our staff are highly trained and supported to deliver the very best
- To develop good relationships with parents so that they have the information and skills to actively support their child on their learning journey.

At Melbourne Community Primary School we aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world.

We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

We actively promote British values in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

One of the ways in which the children are taught about democracy is through the election of representatives for the school council and Eco club. We also encourage children to debate issues and to vote for decisions that happen within class and the school.

### **The rule of law**

We have our whole school behaviour expectations which children are encouraged and supported to follow. We teach the children to understand why these rules are important, and as importantly the consequences to behaviour when we don't follow rules. We have very high standards of behaviour and we find that the children rise up to our expectations. We encourage children to make the right choices, and instil in them the importance of forgiveness and the chance to learn and grow from our mistakes.

The children are taught about the rule of law outside the school with visits from Community police liaison officers who give talks in assemblies and in class. We want our children to grow into caring and law abiding citizens and we teach them the difference between right and wrong through the curriculum as well as in the way we talk to them at all points throughout the day.

### **An understanding of different faiths, cultures and beliefs**

From the very earliest years in which our children start at Melbourne Community Primary School, we teach them about different cultures, faiths and religions. Children share in traditional stories, food and costumes from other places and cultures.



We celebrate our differences and focus on every child as a unique individual, empowering them and celebrating what makes them unique. We see each child as an individual, and so recognise each individual child's special qualities.

As a school family we encourage tolerance and respect and feel it is imperative that this is developed as strength of our diverse learning environment.

### **Equality**

Equality is essential to us and we believe strongly that all children have an equality of opportunity at school regardless of all other factors within their lives. It is important that we continue improving the attainment and progress of all pupils.

In each class we set ourselves targets to ensure that we are always focused on the children in our care, ensuring that each child is able to access their full educational entitlement, with enrichment experiences to raise aspirations, and we are committed to the success of every child in our care.