



The Ridgeway CE Primary School

'Building for Life'

British Values

The Department for Education (DfE) have 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.

As a school we work hard to ensure that all of our children are valued and accepted in a school family that encourages and celebrates diversity. Our school offers many opportunities for the development of the whole child (Building for life), developing personally and academically, encouraging a lifestyle based on Christian values and teaching. Our school works hard to preserve its cultural roots, teaching children to know their own heritage, but at the same time learning to understand and respect the different racial, religious, cultural and language backgrounds of others. Caring for and valuing everyone is a central element of living out the Christian faith and is at the heart of the life of our school. We aim to be a family where all are appreciated and respected, and we endeavour to inspire our children to create a better world through respect, acceptance and understanding.

Through our core 'Values' we engage children in learning that supports them in developing an awareness of their own feelings, emotions and beliefs. We also aim to help the children to understand the role of British values in society including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. This happens overtly through our curriculum but also threads through our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) learning across all other areas of learning and school life and ensures children are aware of the history and values of Britain, preparing them for life in modern Britain.

We develop children's knowledge of Christianity, as the predominant religion in Great Britain, and of the other principle religions represented in this country.

Democracy

Democracy is firmly embedded in the life of the school. The children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through School Council, every child on the student council is voted in by their class. Children are given a variety of other opportunities such as school votes, pupil questionnaires and pupil voice interviews to respectfully share their views on a range of matters.

Rule of Law

The importance of rules and laws, whether they apply to a class, a school or the nation itself, are consistently reinforced, both in the classroom and within the wider life of the school. Children are taught the value and reasons behind laws: that they govern and protect us; that there is an unbreakable link between 'rights' and 'responsibilities'; that there are consequences when laws are broken. Consequences, in line with the school's behaviour policy, remind the children that

breaking the rules (as when breaking the law) may impact upon themselves and others. As a school we recognise that within our school community and in our relationships with others, forgiveness and reconciliation are key.

Individual Liberty

Within school, the children 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 the children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights (reinforcing the strong link between their rights and their responsibilities) and personal freedoms, and are advised how to exercise these safely and with an awareness of the rights of others.

Mutual Respect

Running through everything that the school represents, through its vision and values, is a strong sense of respect, it is one of our core values. Children know that their behaviour has an effect on themselves and others. We model how to speak to each other and care for one another throughout every day. Respect is consistently and frequently discussed with the children through Collective Worship, class JIGSAW (PSHE) lessons and School Council meetings.

Tolerance

As a school, we have thoroughly embraced all of the positive aspects of tolerance, including respect, acceptance and understanding. We set out to enhance each child's understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and to give them opportunities to experience such diversity. As a Church of England school we welcome children who have faiths and a range of world views. A range of faiths, beliefs and festivals are explored through the school curriculum, the religious education curriculum and our programme of collective worship. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. A number of charities are supported by the school, both locally and globally, and these are chosen regardless of faith and belief. Prejudice of any kind is treated with the highest priority in accordance with the school's policies and ethos.

Reviewed: October 2026

Next Review: October 2028