

The Gravel Hill School motto is **“Learning for Life”**. We firmly believe that an important life skill is learning to understand and respect the values that are shared by the people in our wider community. We therefore ensure that the British values of democracy, respect for the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance are at the heart of everything we do.

British values are taught explicitly through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE), and Religious Education (RE). We also teach British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. The school takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through our daily assemblies and whole school systems and structures. We also actively promote the British values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring them together and we challenge pupils, staff or parents who express opinions contrary to British values.

Democracy

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard:

- We provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services. We teach pupils about how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- We have a school council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings; all class council representatives are voted for by their peers.
- We also have a committee of Pupil Governors, a role which pupils in Year 5 and 6 are invited to apply for in writing. The Pupil Governors work with pupils, staff and the school’s Governing Body to improve learning across the school.
- Children have an annual questionnaire with which they are able to put forward their views about the school.

Respect for the rule of law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced:

- 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 and Fire Service help reinforce this message.
- Our Stages of behaviour are aligned to an agreed set of codes. When necessary, children and adults discuss which aspect of the code they have broken to ensure that the connection between actions and consequences is made and understood.
- Rewards are given to children who follow the school’s expectations for behaviour and conduct to acknowledge those who live their life by the chosen set of rules.

Individual liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.

- We educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education.

- Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms, whilst understanding the need to take responsibility for their own actions.
- Pupils are given the freedom to make some choices about their learning and we support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- We encourage a growth mindset amongst pupils, teaching children to challenge stereotypes and take ownership of their learning and development
- We implement a strong anti-bullying culture.

Mutual respect and tolerance of others with different faiths and beliefs

Respect is one of our school's core values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

- We Promote respect for individual differences
- We help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life. We enhance pupils' understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education studies (RE)
- We celebrate the cultures of every pupil in each class through the sharing and celebrating of information on our Cultural Map displays.
- We challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- We organise visits to places of worship and develop links with faith communities
- We provide opportunities for pupils to learn about and participate in a vast range of celebrations that are traditional in Britain and other countries.