

Promoting Fundamental British values

All schools are expected to promote the fundamental British values of democracy:

1. Values of democracy
2. Rules & Laws
3. Individual liberty
4. Mutual respect and tolerance



This is not something new at Swanmead Community School. British values are promoted in so much of what we do, not least during our school assemblies and across our wide range of subjects in both KS2 and KS3. The values are integral to our mission statement of **Feeling Proud and Confident about our Learning** which complements British values. These 4 British values are integral to many countries throughout the world.

Values of Democracy

Swanmead is a listening school. Children, families and staff have many opportunities for their voice to be heard. Each year we survey parents, pupils and staff; we always present the results of our findings and explain to our stakeholders how we are responding to their suggestions.

Our pupil voice groups allow children to share their views and discuss current and ongoing issues relevant to the school and the wider community. The school makes good use of tutor time in order to debate the issues through discussing world news and via our weekly 'thunk'. The school does not 'skirt the issues' and, of recent times, has facilitated talk about the American presidential election, Brexit and Terrorist attacks.

Other more specific examples of democracy in action include:

- Elected members of the **Senior Pupils** and **House Captains Teams** identifying ways to improve the school and organising fundraising events.
- Elected members of the **Tutor Group Captains** Team giving regular feedback on the quality of the provision they feel they get in and out of the classroom.
- The weekly **Gardening Group** identifying key issues related to ecology and protecting the environment.
- **Sports Leaders** planning and leading the sports festivals in neighbouring First Schools.

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard.

All members of staff are valued and are given regular opportunities to express their opinions and make suggestions for how to make the school even better. They elect two members of staff to the governing body and there are open communication pathways to the school's management team.

Parents have a very positive view of the school and they understand and use its open door policy. They use Ofsted's Parentview to freely express their views and they can approach members of our active **SCOFF (Swanmead Community of Families and Friends)** which provide a finger on the pulse of the parental community. Parents on the highly effective SCOFF committee raise large sums of money and decide how this is spent.

4 out of the 11 board of governors are elected parents.

Rules & Laws

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each tutor group discusses and sets its own tutor group rules and regulations.

Our well established Ground Rules are respected by adults and children alike. When these rules are broken, children are very clear on the sanctions and implications.

Any major incidents of bad pupil behaviour outside of school are taken seriously. The Headteacher and other Senior Staff would discuss these issues with families and the police if necessary.

Younger children are encouraged to trust, respect and value the police and other authority figures. The older children 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.

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Within Swanmead, pupils are encouraged to make responsible choices in a safe environment.

Our curriculum advocates learning without limits where children get regular opportunities to select their:

- Level of challenge
- Way of working
- Learning outcome

Pupils can choose from a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. On transfer to the school, children choose 3 preferred classmates from their First School for the new academic year when classes are organised. They are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our online safety and PSHE lessons.

Into KS3, pupils are very much encouraged to argue their points and in many lessons follow the rule of PEE (Point, Evidence, Explanation).

Mutual respect and tolerance

Swanmead Community School recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith nature of the United Kingdom and we understand the crucial role our school plays in promoting fundamental British values. We are a school for all.

Swanmead is a very inclusive school, in which all pupils and families are nurtured, valued & motivated.

Specific examples of how we enhance pupil's understanding and respect for every person's uniqueness are through:

- A strong sense of belonging to a class/house team/school
- A strong, inclusive provision for all children with special educational needs and disabilities
- Healthy competition where children learn to win and lose gracefully, respecting one another
- Deliberate social mixing of classes each academic year
- Religious Education
- PSHE
- School Assembly Themes

However, we are aware that there will be isolated instances which are contrary to our values. They are treated seriously and investigated by the school with a view to resolving them amicably.

Our aim is for all children to leave the school with at least 30 friends.

Extremism & Radicalisation

Extremism & Radicalisation have no place within a tolerant, modern British society. The Counter Terrorism and Security Act has placed a duty upon schools to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. At Swanmead, we are vigilant in identifying any young people who are expressing extremist or radical views. Any incident would be fully investigated and reported to the relevant authorities. All staff and governors have a certificate to show they have done some type of basic online training regarding this aspect.