

Life In Modern Britain at Shirley Heath

At Shirley Heath we put the **rights** and **responsibilities** of our children at the heart of everything we do. We promote good manners, tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles through our **R.E.S.P.E.C.T.** Values, British Values and our whole school behaviour plan.

We have ambassadors from each class in school who form our School Council. They are voted for democratically by their peers, holding termly meetings and sometimes feeding back in school assemblies. Every child has a responsibility within and sometimes outside of their class. We also have Peer Mediators and Play Leaders - they express their views, help keep other children safe and happy and even plan their own activities for peers at playtime alongside supporting adults.

We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. We value the importance of the current Ofsted guidance:

“ensure that they and the school promote tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (or those of no faith), cultures and lifestyles; and support and help, through their words, actions and influence within the school and more widely in the community, to prepare children and young people positively for life in modern Britain”.

We value the very diverse ethnic backgrounds of all pupils and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate these. We have found this approach to be enriching for all parties as it teaches tolerance and respect for the differences in our community and, of

course, the wider world. Underpinning all this are a range of curriculum topics which have strong links to British History, include the Stone Age, the Roman Empire and significant turning points in British History, for example World War II.

Each year we celebrate Remembrance Day where children purchase poppies and a two minutes' silence is held with our own Last Post. As a whole school this year we shall be celebrating the Commonwealth Games and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is another high profile event we are looking forward to. We support charities e.g. Children in Need and Red Nose Day by running fundraising event days and each year the School Council selects a charity for the school to support.

We do a great deal of work through Assemblies on global issues and current affairs alongside celebrating British culture and significant people. We use our extensive Assemblies offer to reinforce school rules, rewards and sanctions and to focus on our Values of Respect, Equality, Safety, Perseverance, Empathy, Curiosity and Truth.

On a general level, the school undertakes weekly 'celebration assemblies' which uphold our Values.

British Values are also taught within Assemblies, formal R.E. and P.S.H.E. lessons and on an informal nature throughout the school day.

Our pupils are taught about keeping safe, both physically and in the broader sense of issues like e-safety. We often have outside agencies in to support our work on this such as our local PCSO. Pupils feel safe at Shirley Heath and our children know that bullying, sexual harassment, racist name-calling and homophobic language will not be tolerated.

All staff are expected to represent our Values, whatever their role within the school. These Values have been created through collaboration between all stakeholders. Democracy is evident within our school through the School Council, our Parent Forum, regular surveys of pupils, staff and parents as well as via staff Working Parties. Our aim is for everyone to have a voice and pupils' contributions are taken especially seriously by adults.

We are very proud at Shirley Heath Junior School that we always look to develop '**The Whole Child**' so that pupils leave us having had a very well-rounded education academically, socially, culturally and with a strong set of values.