



British Values at Azbuka

The Department for Education have recently 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.*” The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

British Values are reinforced regularly at Azbuka in the following ways:

Democracy: We respect each other’s rights and opinions. Each year the children decide upon their class rules and the rights and responsibilities associated with these. Every class member and staff that teaches in the class agrees to follow these rules. We also have school rules which are discussed at the start of every year.

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. All classes have circle times when adults and children listen to each other’s views. All children have the opportunity to talk to staff on a regular formal and informal basis and use these occasions to share their views. The children are encouraged to have differing opinions and to respect each other’s opinions on a range of topics. As Azbuka grows we aim to create a School Council for children from Year 1 upwards to be elected representatives to discuss issues which are raised by their classmates. Each class will have a regular discussion time to raise any issues which they would like brought to the attention of the School Council. The Head Teacher, or a representative, will attend the School Council sessions.

The Rule of Law: The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that these involve and the consequences when laws and rules are broken. Visits from authorities and visits to local amenities such as the Police; Fire Service; Network Rail; Road Safety staff etc. help to reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty: Within school, pupils 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 young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, which language they wish to express themselves in, or participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect: Through Azbuka's unique bilingual and bicultural programme children are taught to appreciate, respect and celebrate diversity. We maintain the same expectation for how someone should be spoken to, whether it be child to child, adult to child, child to adult or adult to adult. Our School ethos promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. When a child does something well their achievement this is acknowledged in many ways such as; immediate and specific praise, reaching 'the happy sun', awards at assembly, positive notes home and sharing achievements and awards at assemblies.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs: This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Azbuka believe in promoting cultural appreciation and respect throughout our programme and teach the children about different faiths and their major celebrations in 'the world around us'. Apart from the Russian and British cultural traditions, we celebrate a range of different world traditions and celebrations during assemblies, lessons and themed days, school visits, often drawing on the experience of the local community. We use assemblies to point out the similarities between religions. Misconceptions between religions are addressed as well as prejudices that have been expressed by the community. Tolerance is a key part of the PSHE curriculum along with celebrating diversity.