

## SMSC & British Values

At Kents Hill School & Nursery, we offer a variety of ways to help our children develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including understanding of British Values.

At Kents Hill School, SMSC is promoted not only through all of the subjects in our curriculum, but also through our vision of mindfulness, wellbeing, values and ethos, which permeate all aspects of school life. We aim to provide opportunities for our children to form their own identity and sense of place and purpose; giving them the confidence to question and discover who they are in the world and face the exciting challenges that lie ahead. Alongside this we teach children to reflect on British Values, linked to our own values.

Our children are actively involved in raising money for a variety of events throughout the year such the World Mental Health Day, events for MacMillan Cancer, Dogs Trust, British Heart Foundation and Children in Need. This enables pupils to develop key skills to equip them to be courageous advocates for the common good, locally and globally.

### Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC)

The **spiritual** development of pupils is demonstrated by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values in the increasingly diverse world around them.
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them.
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning.
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

The **moral** development of pupils is demonstrated by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives, recognise legal boundaries and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions.
- curious about and interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

The **social** development of pupils is shown by their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively.
- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and

beliefs; they develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

The **cultural** development of pupils is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and those of others.
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain.
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain.
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities.
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socioeconomic groups in the local, national and global communities.

## TEACHING BRITISH VALUES

### Promoting British Values at Kents Hill School and Nursery

- The 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."*
- The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values were reiterated in 2014. At Kents Hill, those values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

#### Democracy

- Whilst there is a set of whole school rules, based on a set of beliefs, each year the children decide upon their individual or unique class rules. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the rules. We have a school council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council makes decisions based on issues raised by their peers and is genuinely able to contribute towards effecting change within the school. Every child on the student council is voted in by their class.
- Children have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school.

## **The Rule of Law**

- The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Kents Hill School. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules and expectations of the school.
- Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and 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 can help to reinforce this message.

## **Individual Liberty**

At Kents Hill, 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 informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our eSafety and PSHE lessons. They also understand that with rights come responsibilities.

## **Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect is at the heart of our 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.

## **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

At Kents Hill School and Nursery, we actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. The children visit or study places of worship that are important to different faiths. As a school we work closely with families and visitors from different faiths in order to ensure that all children are included.