



The DfE have recently reinforced the need for 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 term ‘British values’ might be slightly misleading as these values are integral to so many countries throughout the world and very much reflect the diversity of our school.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year and published in November 2014. At Talbot Primary these values are reinforced regularly in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

Democracy is rife within the school. Children have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil questionnaires. Made up of two representatives from each class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes and has actively participated in securing change in the school, e.g. recruitment, planning whole school event days and reviewing our homework and anti-bullying policies. Our Governing Body members often make visits to their link classes to explain more about their role and how democracy works within the governance structure.

### **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, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. 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. At the start of the school year, each class discusses and sets its own Class Charter, a set of principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Wherever possible these values are reinforced through visits from authorities such as the police or fire service.

### **Individual Liberty**

Within school, children 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 children to make choices safely, through of provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, children are given the freedom to make choices.

### **Mutual Respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around our core values of ‘Courage, truth and loyalty’ and children have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. We thoroughly embrace and celebrate the diversity of our community and wherever possible invite parents into school to support children’s understanding of their faiths and beliefs. We actively promote opportunities for parents to support our diversity assemblies, e.g. Eid, Divali, Harvest and Shabbat through which children can enhance their understanding of their place in a diverse society. These assemblies and discussions are further enhanced through PSHE and class assemblies where children celebrate difference and develop their understanding and respect for each other.