

# British Values



## Our vision

**Nether Stowey Church of England Primary School  
inspires a love of learning in all of us with  
Christian values at our heart.**

**Our school community is a safe, caring friendly place where everyone is welcome.  
We give all children and staff the opportunity and encouragement to aim high and develop their  
strengths and interests.**

**We strive to understand, respect and value each other, our school, our community and the world  
we live in.**

**School values are:** Thankfulness, Fellowship, Endurance, Peace, Trust & Charity

Nether Stowey C of E VC Primary School is committed to actively promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Until now schools have been required to 'respect' these values, but as a result of changes brought in all schools must now have a clear strategy for embedding these values and show how their work with pupils has been effective in doing so.

A key part of the Government's plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. They want every school to promote the basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. This ensures young people understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

Examples of the understanding and knowledge pupils are expected to learn include:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination

Examples of actions schools can take to promote British values are to:

- include in suitable parts of the curriculum - as appropriate for the age of pupils - material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in

other countries

- ensure all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils
- use opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections to promote fundamental British values and provide pupils with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view
- consider the role of extra-curricular activity, including any run directly by pupils, in promoting fundamental British values

So how does that look here at Nether Stowey CE VC Primary School?

We work incredibly hard to ensure pupils and staff uphold a strong moral compass here and ensure Christian values are at our heart. 'Love thy neighbour' is instilled through the school prayer, School vision statement and school collective worships, as well as through a Curriculum designed to ensure everyone is seen as a neighbour, no matter what distance lies between us.

We think it very important that our pupils develop a strong set of values and principles, and that they question and understand what it means to grow up in British society. Through a rich and challenging Curriculum, and through a focus on key events in British History we invite pupils to reflect upon their role in a diverse, multicultural and multi faith society.

Through a focus on other cultures in Global Citizenship collective worships and the consideration of other cultures in Humanities, RE, Art and PSHE, we equip pupils with a mature, respectful and sensitive appreciation for difference and diversity. In discussing what it means to be British, children engage critically with stereotypes and prejudices and develop an understanding of how we can celebrate our heritage and home cultures whilst also embracing the ties that bind us together.

We inculcate a deeply embedded appreciation of the values of fairness and democracy through our PHSE (SCARF) curriculum and as well as through our School Council, in which children seeking to be elected as class representatives participate in the democratic voting process. Our Geography curriculum and Monday collective worships cast a light on global citizenship and the rule of law, including the role of democratic advocacy for change. Our school is enriched by the faith of our school community, and we teach an inclusive and embracing Religious Education Curriculum (Awareness, Mystery & Value designed by the Diocese of Bath & Wells) that teaches pupils about the beliefs and practices of all major religious groups, and indeed the shared values that religion can promote in synchrony with core British values.

As a school we recognise the need to enjoy wide cultural diversity, we take our responsibility to promote community cohesion, generate a respect for difference and individual rights seriously. Our challenging curriculum enables pupils to recognise the valuable role that they play as emerging citizens in British society.