



Together, Everyone, Achieves, More



St Weonards Academy Values Education Policy

Reviewed: September 2023

Next review: September 2024

We seek to ensure that all children in our school develop their academic, social and personal potential to the full and grow into competent, tolerant adults who can work together co-operatively, manage their own lives and play their full part as responsible citizens and life-long learners.

At St Weonards Academy we are giving a great deal of thought to the values we are aiming to promote (Appendix 1). Through these values we can help the children to develop meaningful relationships within the school and the wider community with their voice heard. This will in turn ensure that children become valuable and fully rounded members of society.

As a school community, we believe the ethos of the school should be built on a foundation of Five core values, which are;

Determination,
Resilience,
Equality,
Appreciation and
Mindfulness.

These values will underpin the whole ethos of the school and be referred to by all staff and children in all aspects of the school day. They are the basis for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of each child. The values will be notably intertwined within our Jigsaw PSHE lessons, RE lessons, assemblies and coverage of British Values. Each half term our whole school assemblies will have a key focus on one of the DREAM values. The five British values feature heavily within the DREAM value of Equality and therefore will be covered over the whole of the Spring term. There will also be opportunities for incidental exposure of all values throughout the year, for example; charity days, Remembrance, sporting events, school councils etc.

The Principles of Values Education at St Weonards Academy

- To actively promote a whole-school policy which has the support of all the staff and the Headteacher
- To develop a whole school ethos through weekly assemblies, focusing on a core value each half term, alongside our Jigsaw curriculum
- To make links to values within other subjects where appropriate, for example, opportunities for personal reflection and moral discourse
- To ensure that values are taught implicitly through every aspect of the curriculum and school life

Some examples in which the teaching and learning of our values will take place are;

- Teachers explaining the meaning of a value,
- Pupils reflecting on the value and relating it to their own behaviour,
- Pupils using the value to guide their own actions,
- staff modelling the value through their own behaviour,

- staff expectations of the pupils,
- whole school assemblies,
- PSHE Jigsaw and RE lessons,
- charity events, such as, Remembrance, Children in Need,
- Local community visits/ visitors, such as, police, vicar.

A key part of our plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain. Therefore, we ensure that the five British Values are embedded within our values curriculum. The British values are covered through PSHE, SMSC aspects and RE, and are reinforced through subjects such as history and geography. We actively encourage pupils to consider these values, thereby developing knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to develop as reflective learners and grow to be stable, educated and civilized adults.

British Values

- The Rule of Law
- Democracy
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs

The understanding and knowledge pupils are expected to learn include:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process. This will be through voting for and having a say in school council and eco club
- an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law, covered through regular teaching of Religious Education.
- 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. Taught through Religious Education and PSHE lessons and being accepting of all visitors and people within our community.
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination, which will be implemented through our behaviour policy.
- An understanding of and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken
- an understanding of freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely
- an understanding that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to *everyone*, whatever differences we may have, and to *everything*, whether it is a school resource, a religious belief or whatever.

Further actions St Weonards Academy will do 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 and lunchtime and classroom rules decided by the children themselves (Being me in my World)
- 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, this includes, play leaders at lunchtimes, snack and music monitors, buddies for younger children, prefects

Classroom Ethos

Children need to feel secure and able to share their thoughts, feelings and experiences when they know that these are always welcomed and valued. Activities which promote this ethos include:

- Creating a peaceful climate in the classroom and on the school site.
- Taking children to places to experience peace and to encourage them to value them.
- Giving opportunities for decision making.
- School's behaviour policy which clearly defines how the school puts emphasis on behaving well and positive thinking.
- Giving time in class for pupils to respond to some of the basic needs within us: friendship, co-operation, self- reflection to clarify their understanding of values.
- Helping children to be relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings
- Opportunity for role-play so that skills associated with negotiation, co-operation and assertiveness are developed.
- Ensuring all pupils' voices are heard.

Conclusion

The approaches outlined in this policy describe how we at St Weonards Academy use core and British values as a basis for our spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Our values are clear, simple to understand and will support our children in their development both inside and outside the classroom. St Weonards Academy prides itself not only in providing an excellent education for its pupils but in developing young people into well-rounded individuals who make positive contributions to the society in which they live. The success of our approach to teaching and learning is evident in the school's positive ethos and in the personal qualities that pupils display in the community.

Appendix 1

St Weonards Academy Values

Each half term there will be a core value and from that there will be opportunities for further values to be covered. The values have been designed to work alongside our PSHE puzzles and coverage of British Values. The values will be introduced in our weekly Jigsaw/ values assemblies and embedded through PSHE and RE lessons and the whole ethos of the school.

Term 1- Determination

We will promote and support children to be ambitious, persevere with new challenges and celebrate their own achievements. They will be motivated to move forward with their learning and dreams for the future. Other values which may be covered: ambition, perseverance, success,
(Dreams and Goals)

Term 2- Resilience

We will teach children to become independent, courageous learners with the skills to bounce-back from challenges whereby we can take risks and push our limits. We strive to overcome the worry of making mistakes and understand that we become better learners because of these experiences. Other values which may be covered: independence, courage
(Changing Me)

Term 3 and 4- Equality

This value is about being respectful, showing acceptance and tolerance to others and ensuring the right of every individual to equal treatment and opportunities. Other values which may be covered: respect, tolerance, peace, inclusion, acceptance, Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect, Tolerance of Different Faiths

(Celebrating Differences)

Term 5- Appreciation

Within the value of appreciation, we will be looking at how we can be kind, caring, and thoughtful members of society and appreciate our school, each other and our ever-changing world. Other values which may be covered: caring, love, kindness, thoughtfulness, friendship, Rule of Law, Mutual Respect
(Relationships)

Term 6- Mindfulness

This value is all about keeping our mind and body healthy and will encourage the children to become aware of their own thoughts and feelings in the moment. This can support them to stay calm in difficult situations and look after their own well-being to be happy. Other values which may be covered: Happiness, self- worth, awareness, calmness, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect
(Being Me in my World and Healthy Me)

Together Everyone Achieves More (this part of the motto was chosen by the children in school council)