

Promoting British Values through the English Curriculum at Childwall CE Primary School

Throughout their time at Childwall, children are introduced to a range of texts from our literary heritage, encouraging them to further explore the works of British writers. The study of non-fiction texts provides students and teachers with the opportunity to address topical issues and consider different social, political, religious and cultural attitudes and contexts. A wide variety of novels, news reports, magazine articles, non-fiction texts and internet sources are used which lend themselves to promoting our fundamental British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and tolerance and mutual respect.

Democracy

Children are encouraged to write texts which debate issues and persuade the reader of their views. This promotes the concept of free speech. This thread continues into our speaking and listening activities, where Socratic language is used in Philosophy 4 Children discussions and debates. Students are expected to listen to and respect each other during group discussions and debate, and to work cooperatively in pursuit of common goals. At a simpler level, in Key Stage One, children make group decisions about which books to share together, and votes are taken in Key Stage Two to establish year groups' favourite books and authors.

Rule of Law

Stories throughout the school clearly set out the difference between right and wrong, and where necessary, show how justice has been served. For instance, in Upper Key Stage Two, children begin to discuss characters' flaws and the consequences inflicted on them. Information texts, novel extracts and novel studies develop children's general knowledge of and respect for British public services and institutions such as the NHS, Barnado's and other charities.

Individual Liberty

Many stories and non-fiction texts involve personal choice, journeys and self-discovery. In our studies of poetry and stories from other cultures, we discuss different slangs and dialect and their influences. By encouraging children to nurture their own book choices, we help them to develop a positive sense of themselves.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

The study of literature goes hand-in-hand with exploration of different people, places and social groups and as such promotes understanding and tolerance. Each year group studies stories from other cultures, either through a novel study, a writing topic or poetry, and explore similarities and differences between them. Our library is well stocked with stories in a variety of languages, of a variety of cultures and religions. In spelling lessons, the etymology of different words are investigated, often leading to a discussion of how the English language has been influenced by other languages.