

I wonder what you think about when asked about being British? My answer is usually tea (but I am from Yorkshire!) I wonder what traditions you mark and celebrate? I love anniversaries and celebrations and will generally find any excuse to put up balloons or bunting.

In May we marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day. This major historical milestone provided a valuable opportunity to engage pupils in learning about World War II, remembrance, and British history. We had whole school worship, made a human 80 on the field followed by a range of VE Day classroom activities designed to spark curiosity, build knowledge, and bring history to life – helping our children understand the past in meaningful, age-appropriate ways. We ended with a tea party and sing song. It has also been a chance to come together as a school community to celebrate the peace and freedom that we enjoy today.

In November 2014 the Government created an 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.

Democracy is fully integrated within Aston Rowant Primary School. Both pupil and parent/carer voice play a central part in developing school improvement priorities. We actively encourage children to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly. School leaders talk regularly to children to establish their views as a way of ensuring that school self-evaluation is robust and accurate, and therefore help our school to be the very best it can be.

The Rule of Law Children are taught to understand the value and need for laws; that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Children are taught that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law. Collective Worship is for children of all faiths and none and discussions in class focus on recognising right from wrong. Children have to abide by school rules on a daily basis which they know, understand and adhere to.

Individual Liberty is shown within school, as the children are actively encouraged to make choices and decisions, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Children are taught to understand their personal freedoms and how to use these rights to best effect to ensure they make choices in a safe manner. Through challenges in the classroom and participation in extra-curricular activities pupils are given the freedom to make choices and follow these through.

Mutual Respect Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect and kindness. This is reflected in our core values of Growth, Resilience, Outreach, Wonder, Trust and Harmony.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs Despite our setting we are a diverse school and actively promote it through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. RE, PSHE lessons and collective worship reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Children learn about the beliefs and practices of people of the following world faiths; Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam as well as different world views.

British Values are important because they form a shared framework for behaviour and interactions in the UK, fostering a society that values democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect. These values promote national identity, social cohesion, and fairness for all, ensuring a more inclusive and harmonious society for this generation and for generations to come.

I wonder how you would define what it is to be British and what special traditions and customs you embrace and enjoy?

Mrs Helen France
Headteacher

