

British Values Day 2025 – VE Day 80th Anniversary

To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, our whole school came together for a special British Values Day that combined historical remembrance with meaningful reflection on the values that continue to shape life in modern Britain. The day was carefully designed to be age-appropriate, respectful and engaging, enabling pupils to connect past events with the British Values we live by today.

Intent

The focus of British Values Day 2025 was to help pupils:

- understand how freedom, democracy and unity were upheld during the Second World War
- recognise the significance of VE Day as a moment of national relief, hope and togetherness
- appreciate the courage and sacrifice of the wartime generation
- make clear links between historical events and the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance

Our aim was to support pupils' personal development while fostering empathy, reflection and a strong sense of collective responsibility.

Implementation

The day began with a whole-school reflection on courage, sacrifice and the value of freedom. Pupils were encouraged to consider what peace means today and why it should never be taken for granted.

To build community spirit, the school sang well-known wartime songs, including *We'll Meet Again*, helping pupils to experience the sense of unity that characterised VE Day celebrations.

Pupils then took part in a series of cross-school workshops, working in mixed-age groups to strengthen cooperation, respect and leadership.

Activities included:

- Mapping VE Day events and creating simple timelines, supporting historical understanding and chronology
- Rule of Law activities illustrating fairness, safety and why shared rules matter
- Respect and Diversity quilt squares, reflecting unity and tolerance within the school community
- Democracy activity – “If I Were Prime Minister...”, enabling pupils to express ideas, make choices and understand leadership

Learning was carefully adapted to age and stage:

- EYFS and KS1 pupils explored kindness, helping others and working together
- Key Stage 2 pupils engaged more deeply with ideas of justice, leadership, freedom and historical context

Across all activities, pupils were encouraged to connect VE Day themes to modern values of peace, cooperation and responsibility.

Impact

By the end of the day, pupils demonstrated:

- empathy and respect for the wartime generation
- a clear understanding of how British Values relate to real historical events
- thoughtful discussion around freedom, fairness and responsibility
- pride in being part of national remembrance
- positive collaboration through mixed-age teamwork

Pupil reflections showed that children were able to make meaningful links between the past and present, recognising that the values upheld during WWII remain vital in shaping society today.

A Meaningful Act of Remembrance

British Values Day 2025 was a powerful reminder that remembrance is not only about looking back, but about understanding how history informs the values we live by every day. The children approached the day with maturity, curiosity and respect, showing once again the strength of our school community and our commitment to developing thoughtful, responsible citizens.

V.F. Day Photo Diary



GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY
Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)