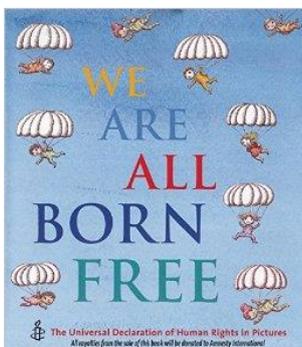


SMSC & British Values

Parents, teachers, government, inspectors and children all agree that school is about far more than learning the curriculum. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is the term used to embrace this broader dimension. It ranges from teaching in RE and citizenship through to sex and relationship education and a wide range of extra-curricular and out-of-school activities. Importantly these vital dimensions of life and growth should be present across the entire curriculum.

British values

In June 2014, David Cameron emphasised the important role that British values can play in education and Ofsted now inspects how well a school prepares their pupils for modern Britain and promotes such values. Although the official term is 'British values' we recognise that these values are integral to many countries throughout the world and indeed those represented in our own Academy– they differ in no way from the values of the majority of cultures.



At Watermead British Values are promoted throughout the Life of the Academy and is integral to our unique and vibrant curriculum. The heart of our curriculum is built around a love of books, this is also true of our work on British Values. Each class has their own treasured copy of 'We Are All Born Free' which is a firm favourite and used regularly during our daily, planned 'story time' as a stimulus for discussion and to allow the children to 'Think out Loud' about the issues related to 'values for all' and citizenship. In addition to actively promoting British values however, the opposite also applies as we actively challenge pupils, staff or parents who express opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views.

Being Part of Britain



As an Academy, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of all at Watermead and what it means to be part of British Society. As children join the Academy their heritage is acknowledged and valued by the addition of a flag to our expanding display during our weekly 'Sparkle and Shine' celebration assembly.

Throughout the year we celebrate traditions such as Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Easter, Diwali, Eid and Hanukah. At Christmas the Nativity is performed by all the children in the Academy, including Nursery. Many of our children visit the pantomime and traditional parties are held to celebrate the season. Each Friday we hold a Birthday tea party for any child who has celebrated their birthday during the week. The children involved ask their parents and siblings by invitation to also attend to enjoy the tea served in china cups and cakes; making it a thoroughly 'British affair'.

In addition, we also value and celebrate national events as they arise, for example, the older children will be visiting Yorkshire Sculpture Park to view the 'Wave' exhibition of poppies to commemorate Remembrance Day.

Furthermore, children learn about being part of Britain from different specific perspectives. Two specific examples are learning about being part of Britain through the Geography curriculum. The programme of study for History also focuses on Britain as the children learn about World War 2, the Victorians and local history pertinent to Yorkshire and our local community.

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Watermead. Democracy is central to how our Academy operates. An obvious example is our Pupil Academy Council the election of which reflects the British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action. Candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, a secret vote takes place and the representatives are duly elected from Years 1 – 5. The Academy's Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes; it genuinely affects change within the school. They are involved in all large school developments and regularly meet with the Deputy Principal to share their plans and vision for the future of the Academy.



In Spring 2015 a new House System was established across school to increase a sense of belonging amongst the children, the camaraderie and motivation to work together to succeed. House points are awarded for positive behaviour observed around the Academy. Each half term, house points are totalled and the winning house is rewarded with a treat randomly chosen from a selection decided by the children. Sports day this year was a huge success which was launched with a House Team parade and culminated in the presentation of a trophy to the winning house.

We are a Restorative school where pupils are listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. There is a strong sense of community and mutual respect within the Academy. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress.

Rules and Laws

The importance of rules and laws, whether they govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, through assemblies, reference to our class books; 'We are all born Free' or P4C sessions. At the start of the school year, each class discusses and sets its own agreed rules, or class charter which allows for clear expectations of both staff and children. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. These values are reinforced in different ways:

Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service.

During Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are considered.

During other aspects of the curriculum, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in a sports lesson, for example.

Individual Liberty

In addition to the above, we promote 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; for example:

Choices about their Academy lunch.

Choices about what learning challenge or activity they undertake.

Choices about how they record their learning.

Choices regarding their participation in extra-curricular activities.

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, through P4C, curriculum and Oasis LIFE sessions.



Mutual Respect and Tolerance

The population of Oasis Academy Watermead is increasingly culturally and economically diverse. As a school we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Mutual respect is at the heart of our aims and ethos. Our pupils know and understand that they are expected to show respect to everyone, whatever differences they may have. They are also taught to respect the school environment and the world around them. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on school and society and that they must be equipped with the skills to make the right choices.

Pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are developed through aspects of the curriculum including:

Religious Education.

P4C

Assemblies.

Oasis LIFE