

Preparing for Modern Britain

Stanton Vale School caters for pupils who have severe, complex and profound learning difficulties. At Stanton Vale School we prepare children for life in modern Britain by upholding and teaching pupils about 'British Values' which the government defines as:

- democracy
- rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

These values are taught explicitly through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE), Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Education (SMSC) and Religious Education (RE). We also teach the British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. The values are presented in ways in which directly reflect the learning styles, special needs and the ability of individual pupils.

The school takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through our daily collective acts of worship, department and whole school assemblies. We also actively promote the British values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values.

Actively promoting British Values also means challenging pupils, staff or parents/carers expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views. The profound nature of the learning disabilities on the pupils means that a conventional approach to teaching these Core Values would be impractical. However, by addressing elements of personal and social education that involve behaving appropriately, (Be Friendly), making good choices, respecting the views of others being respectful of the contribution of others, recognising and celebrating achievement in others and these combined with giving our pupils an appreciation and understanding of other cultures we hope to personalise the approach and encourage pupils to be treat others with respect, understanding and tolerance. At Stanton Vale School, 'British Values' are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy – Democracy is an important value at our school. In the upper school the more able students are taught to understand and accept the majority decision

of their peers. This might be as straight forward as deciding on school visits, choice of venue and destination. It might reflect the choice of the majority when subject options and activities are decided upon.

Rule of Law – At Stanton Vale School, the importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day.

The children are given time to consider the part that we all play in society. They learn about their rights and also their responsibilities and how our actions have consequences that can affect those around them at a level at which they can understand and begin to make positive choices. Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

Daily circle time sets the tone for the day in terms of our high expectations and, over the year some, more able children work towards Personal Targets as well as Star Awards for exceptional work and behaviour. Stanton Vale School Stars and Friendly Awards reward children for following the school rules and expectations.

Individual Liberty - Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices at our school, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety teaching and PSHE lessons. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, e.g. signing up for lunch-time clubs.

Mutual Respect – Part of our school ethos and behavior management policy are based around core Christian values such as 'respect' and 'responsibility' and these values determine how we live as a community at Stanton Vale School.

Children and adults alike, including visitors, are challenged if they are disrespectful in any way. Values are highly visible around the school and usually take the form of 'Be Friendly' posters or presented in symbol form as 'Social Stories' which are prepared for individual pupils.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths & Beliefs - Children need to learn how to show respect for others and understand that difference is not only acceptable, but welcome. Children know that everyone is welcome in our school. Assemblies and work in class ensure that this message is constantly reinforced.

We have strong links with local churches and children also have the opportunity to visit them to see the workings of a Christian Church.

The RE curriculum gives the children an overview of a range of religions.

Assemblies involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are followed up by learning in RE and PSHE. We actively promote the anti-bullying project which we have named 'Be Friendly'.

Any concerns raised about lack of tolerance or respect for others on school premises, are followed up stringently.

We use opportunities such as the Olympics and the World Cup to study and learn about life and culture in other countries

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Development of Skills & Attitudes to Contribute Positively to Life in Modern Britain

Children are encouraged to look after the school building and contents and to see the link between finance and material possessions.

Children learn about key figures in history who have contributed to positive changes to society and consider how they can emulate these ideas. Children have many opportunities for learning about Great Britain and the wider world around us.

Older children are encouraged to support younger or less able children at key times such as assemblies, break-time, lunch times and during themed days.

Curricular activities promote a positive mental attitude and team spirit. Children learn about healthy competition and how working together can make us stronger.

Cultural Influences

We have planned our curriculum carefully to include study about our local heritage. Children have the opportunity to visit local areas of historic and cultural significance. This includes churches, castles and stately homes

Children also learn about the world wars and commemorate November 11th each year in lots of different ways, e.g. by making poppies, watching clips.

Artistic, Sporting & Cultural Opportunities

Each class makes regular visits out of school to local places of interest, often with artistic, historical or cultural significance. E.g. children enjoy visits to museums, art galleries and sporting venues.

We provide a broad balanced and progressive Art curriculum which is integrated into other areas of the curriculum. The school's aim is to enable each child to reach their full potential in Art, through investigating and making, research and the

development of skills and through the evaluation of their own artwork and that made by others. We aim to ensure that all pupils know about great artists and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

At Stanton Vale School we provide a broad, balanced and progressive music curriculum which is integrated into other areas of the curriculum where appropriate. Each child is recognised as having different abilities and aptitudes. Children are encouraged to make individual progress during music lessons through a range of activities, irrespective of their starting level. As well as music lessons, children sing each week in assembly and as part of performances and productions. We invite professional musicians into school and have an annual celebration of music called Stanton Vale Rocks.

RE is taught throughout the school. The overall aim of the subject is to enable pupils to develop respect for different beliefs whilst providing them with the opportunities to develop and discover their own personal values. The curriculum reflects the fact that the UK is a multi-cultural society with Christianity as its main religion. The teaching of RE is both creative and varied. Approaches include food tasting, drama, visiting the local Church, exploring festivals through art, re-telling important stories and considering personal beliefs.

All teachers plan a range of artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities across the year so that learning in all areas is enriched.