

The Statement of Values at Shire Oak Primary School naturally embodies our British values. This short piece of work is to show how British values are seen within the Statement of Values and how the school implements those in our every day school life. The Statement of Values with British values highlighted and annotated for clarity is attached for reference.

Tolerance and mutual respect

This value is highlighted in the phrasing 'We express our Christian values in a sensitive way, while at the same time, welcoming families of different faiths and beliefs.' As well as 'Staff and pupils show mutual respect for each other'.

- At Shire Oak we celebrate many different religious festivals with our entire school community by teaching each class about that festival in age appropriate ways
- We often have assemblies to celebrate Diwali, Eid, Harvest, etc. so that all children learn about the different religions and share their learning with parents.
- Class value of respect – Year 4
- Either as part of Multicultural Arts Week, or on another occasion such as Community Day we encourage children to come to school wearing cultural dress.

Citizenship/rights and responsibilities/ democracy

These values are highlighted in 3 places

'Children at Shire Oak recognise their responsibilities towards each other, the local community and the wider world'

'Children are supported to play an active part in the life of the school'

'Children are encouraged to play an active part in the local community and develop an understanding of their role as global citizens. The school works closely with partners from our local community.'

- Each class has a Christian value which they are taught about in their very first week of the school year. These values include sharing, kindness, love, trust, respect, forgiveness and compassion.
- Children are encouraged to show these values throughout their time in Shire Oak
- Headingley Youth Music festival is an event that Shire Oak hosts for the community and many of the children and families are involved in running the event on the day. We welcome the local community and other organisations to perform and take part in the day such as the Brownies, Local circus skills group, Rock School and The Combined Schools Band in which participation is encouraged in Shire Oak.
- At Christmas 2022 Shire Oak collected items in a reverse advent calendar for Baby Basics Leeds. These items go to families who are expecting a child and do not have the essentials for mum and baby.
- Shire Oak enjoy their close relationship with St Michael's church in Headingley and the church is visited regularly by the children in school time. St Michael's and Shire Oak host the annual Headingley Christmas Lights switch on with Shire Oak children often helping to lead and take part in the service before the lights switch on outside.
- Green week

- School Council – two children from each class are voted in by the class to represent them on the school council. The council is regularly asked to be involved in school decisions and to represent the school
- Carol singing at local care homes in the run up to Christmas.
- Children’s achievements outside of school are celebrated in a special Superstars assembly most weeks and children are encouraged to share their hobbies, interests and out of school activities and achievements.
- School newsletter – sent out to parents every week and communicates the school activities during the week as well as children’s out of school achievements and local events that families may be interested in attending.
- Year 6 children running the assemblies. They set up the room, take care of the technical requirements for the assembly and make decisions about the worship elements.
- All children are in a House Team. Year 6 all act as House Team Captains and lead meetings, games, House Team Hobby Half Day sessions, etc.

Cooperation/Social skills

These values are highlighted in two places

‘Children learn to be good friends, to care for each other and work cooperatively.’

‘The children develop the knowledge and skills to make positive life choices’

- Buddy bench – a bench in the playground on which children can sit if they would like some company. Others are then encouraged to go and play with them or chat to them.
- Buddy system – Year 6 students buddy up with the new reception children to help them settle into school life.
- Open mornings – The year six students take prospective parents on tours around the school, showing them around the building and allowing the adults to find out directly from the children their experience of the school.

Respect for rules

Children regularly revisit the school principles, rules and consequences in assemblies and in class. They expect to follow them and for others to do that too and know what will happen if they do not.

RE units on codes for living help children to reflect on the universality of rules for life.

A restorative approach is taken to children who have not respected the rules. Together with their peers they are helped to see the importance of following our codes for living.

This is not an exhaustive list however I believe it shows these values are engrained in our school ethos and learning.

Kate Wright, governor
November 2023