



We are a Values Education School

In 2014 we introduced Values Education to the school. Staff selected 22 British Values which they felt most closely demonstrated those personal qualities the school, parents and our community most want for our children. Our chosen 22 Values are taught over a 2-year rolling cycle. (There are 22 because school is closed in August.)



Each month the school focuses on introducing a different Value – and this is explained to the children, role-modelled, discussed and celebrated throughout the month. Our Values aren't just for Assemblies! They appear in every classroom and throughout the school. We actively encourage children to 'Live the Values' in their lessons, in the playground, and at home. Newsletters are sent home explaining each Value to parents, and giving examples of how we are covering this in school. Rewards (of both verbal praise and house points) celebrate those pupils who demonstrate the Values. In tackling poor behaviour, pupils are gently but positively redirected to the Values and actively taught how to achieve them. This, we believe, is a real strength of the school. We want every child to succeed as caring, fair, honest and positive individuals – who will go on to achieve highly throughout their lives and who society is proud of. Living the Values promotes good behaviour, a sense of responsibility and self-control.



Promoting British Values

The DfE have recently reinforced the need for schools “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous 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”. The Governments definition, as set out in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, was reiterated in 2014.

At Thomas Johnson we reinforce these values in the following ways.

Democracy

All our children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard, and vote for 2 School Parliament members each year, for House Captains, and even for class rewards. Our School Parliament meets monthly with one of the Senior Leadership Team members.

The Rule of Law

We reinforce the importance of Laws during assemblies, lessons and playtimes, whether they govern the class, the school, or the country. Visits from the Fire Service and Police help reinforce this message. We use our Values Education system to deal pro-actively with behaviour and to re-direct pupils to positively live our values.

Individual Liberty

Within school, our children are encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Our children are encouraged to know their rights and personal freedoms, and to exercise these right appropriately and safely (e.g. through e-Safety).

Mutual respect and tolerance

As our village is situated in an area which is not greatly diverse, we place great emphasis on promoting and celebrating diversity, and on showing tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. Assemblies, whilst Christian-based, are regularly planned to include stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. This is reinforced through RE lessons, and in KS2 when classes visit different places of worship as part of the Multi-Faith Tour.

At Thomas Johnson we actively challenge pupils, staff or parents who express opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including “extremist” views.

We know our Values Education is working!

How do we know?

- Visitors to the school have commented on the “lovely atmosphere”. The School Improvement Partner wrote in his July report 2015 *“A programme of values education has been successfully implemented, with a clear impact on pupil behaviour and engagement. As a result, attainment and progress have improved across the school this year”*.
- School Governors have reported improved behaviour and that Values have made “a real difference”.

- Parents write to teachers to request house points when their child shows values at home (e.g. Respect – cleaning out the rabbit)
- Parental comments on questionnaires, and letters to the Head teacher

It was wonderful to be able to walk around the school and see the changes that have already been made and also the plans for the next term and it is clear to see that the children are happy in their work and this can only be credited to you and the values that you believe and drive through the school.

- Pupils nominate others for Living the Values (e.g. in Foxes class, there is a box where children post notes recommending other children, or themselves, for demonstrating a value).

Next Steps: We shall continue to be part of Central Bedfordshire's Values Education Head teacher group, meeting throughout the year to share ideas and good practice and take inspiration from how other schools are encouraging British Values. We intend to continue the journey started last year, by developing the format of our assemblies and encouraging year 4 pupils to play a greater role in assemblies.

The Thomas Johnson Values Rap

by Keira Murphy and Lewis Oliver

*Come on everybody, we're a Values school
If we work together we'll be really cool.
Everybody here co-operates,
Everybody here is never late.
We all listen to the teacher,
Working tougher is a feature.*

*Come on everybody, we're a Values school,
If we work together we'll be really cool.
Friends are happy, friends are fun,
Friends play together in the sun.
Someone's on the bench on their own,
Make them a friend, don't leave them alone.*

*Come on everybody, we're a Values school,
If we work together we'll be really cool.*

Children in Year 4 wrote Values Raps as part of their poetry unit in English. They worked in pairs and performed their work both in Celebration Assembly, and in their Leaver's concert. This Rap, written by Keira and Lewis, has been adopted by the school as the Thomas Johnson Value Rap. We hope you enjoy reading it!