

The Appreciation of the British Way of Life at Westbury Junior School

At Westbury Junior School we value the backgrounds of all pupils and families and partake in a variety of events to celebrate and explore these alongside our own British culture in four key ways:

Spiritually – We spend time in our Religious Education lessons and our Collective Worship reflecting on our own beliefs and learning to be respectful of feelings and faiths of others. Teachers use a variety of resources, such as religious artefacts and DVDs, to promote the understanding of different religions. We also make school visits to the local Parish church in support of church events such as the Christmas tree festival and Harvest and Easter festivals.

Morally – We use our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) lessons to learn about right and wrong, respect for the law and tolerance and respect for different beliefs within school and within the community to prepare the children for life beyond Westbury Junior School.

Socially – We value the voice of the children and promote a democratic approach. Staff regularly carry out ‘Pupil Voice’ discussions to find out the children’s feelings and understanding on a variety of subjects and we also have a School Council where the children are democratically elected and have a real impact on the decision making of the school. In September, each class teacher encourages the children to develop and agree on their ‘Class Charter’ which they will refer to and follow throughout the year.

Culturally – We work hard on our children’s cultural development, helping them to appreciate the different cultures in their own community and further afield as well as recognising their own heritage. We teach the children about the UK parliamentary system and partake in various trips to enrich our pupils’ learning. We have had, and will run, an election at school too to coincide with the UK general election.

Alongside continuous teaching and discussion within the curriculum, we also ensure the children are able to take part in special events to reflect on our core British values:

- Each year, we hold two minutes silence for Remembrance Day and allow the children to explore their feelings about this. Year 6 children also collect donations for poppies from the rest of the school
- The recent centenary of World War One was marked by special lessons in each year group and a visitor to the school who built a life-sized trench to allow the children to understand and empathise with the soldiers of the time
- We celebrate St George’s Day every year with the Infant School children and learn about the history of our patron saint and reflect on what makes us British. This culminates in an outdoor street party event and a toast to the Queen.
- Westbury Junior School encourages knowledge of current affairs that are significant to us as a nation. We celebrated the Diamond Jubilee, the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the birth of George.
- Every year, we celebrate European Day of Languages throughout the school and find out about other countries, practise speaking other languages and even some food tasting
- We have a School Council with democratically elected children who represent the rest of their class in key decision making

- Every summer, Westbury Junior School hold a Sports Day where all children take part in a variety of sporting events, cheered on by the rest of the school and parents
- As a whole school, we celebrated the London Olympics with an Olympic-themed sports day and opportunities to learn about our British Olympians and Paralympians. The whole school also travelled to a nearby town to watch the Olympic torch pass by
- We have a monthly newsletter to keep parents, governors and children informed about the latest events in school
- We encourage our children to take responsibility for various fundraising events throughout the year for Children in Need, Comic Relief or to raise funds for school trips
- At Christmas and Easter, different year groups perform a show to the whole school with close links to the Nativity and Easter story
- Being a rural town, we celebrate Harvest with a Harvest Festival at the local church
- Year 3 visit the SS Great Britain as part of their 'Ship Ahoy' topic. They will also study our local coastlines and both Year 3 and 4 look at the influence of the Romans on nearby Bath
- Year 5 look at British history through studying the Victorians, culminating in a Victorian Day to allow the children to experience a day in the life of a Victorian child
- Year 6 focus on Henry VIII and the Tudors with a trip to Hampton Court Palace too
- We promote Independent Learning within the classroom and where possible, allow the children to choose their level of challenge and how they record their learning

Ultimately, we aim to give the children the necessary skills and understanding so that they are able to contribute to society in both Westbury Junior School and the wider world.