Embedding British Values and Cultural Capital at ‘Little Smarties’

The ‘Fundamental British Values of Democracy’, ‘The Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect’ and ‘Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs’ are already embedded in the EYFS curriculum and practise. At Little Smarties we actively promote these values on a daily basis and link activities to the values they promote within our short term planning.

How British Values is embedded within our daily practice at Little Smarties

Democracy

- Circle times – Daily opportunity to have a discussion as a group. Giving children the time to share their views and opinions and demonstrate respect towards others. Also allowing children to value each other’s views, beliefs and share their feelings/likes/dislikes.
- Topics/Themes – Linking to the children’s interests
- Sense of Belonging – Team activities, Dough Disco, group work, group discussions
- Voting opportunities – for specific activities, choosing a theme for their role play/topic/story book/song to sing etc. Using a ‘show of hands’ approach.
- Encouraging children to complete activities that involve turn-taking, sharing, discussion and collaboration e.g. model making, role play activities and using equipment.
- Group learning times – encouraging children to take turns, listen to others and to value and respect the contributions made by others in the group.
- Create an environment where it is ‘safe’ to make mistakes, share thoughts and ideas, and to explore different options e.g. forgiveness after an argument, opportunities to retry an activity and tolerance for different views.

The rule of law

- Discuss the need for rules to keep everyone safe and happy. Link with activities and continuous provision planned for.
- Encourage children to respect and follow the rules when playing games with others.
- Encourage and support children to learn how to distinguish right from wrong.
- Encourage and support children to take turns, share and compromise.
Individual Liberty

- Encourage children to develop a positive sense of themselves.
- Provide opportunities for children to develop their self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities. E.G. Sharing achievements and successes and promoting independence – Circle times/Sharing smart bags/Group discussions.
- Provide opportunities to take risks, challenges and responsibilities and also encourage children to explore and discuss their thoughts, feelings and ideas with those they trust – circle time/room helpers.
- Encourage children to try a range of different activities and opportunities, and to discuss and select their own preferences – ‘Paving Pathways’ time.
- Encourage children to ask questions and trust that their opinions and ideas will be respected and valued – Circle times, Paving pathways, plan into focused activities.
- Provide opportunities for children to follow and develop their own interests and ideas – Paving pathways, story times, circle times, role play, construction, creative areas.
- Provide activities for all children to engage in and actively challenge gender-specific tasks and activities - focused activities, paving pathways planning of activities, challenge cards.
- Encourage children to reflect upon their similarities and differences, and appreciate and respect that others may have different views – Celebrations around the world planned into our weekly plans.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

- Work as a group to create an environment that includes, values and promotes different faiths, cultures, views and races – Communicate through displays.
- Provide opportunities for the children to make links with the wider community, for example outings to local places, inviting family members or speakers to visit the Nursery, or making links with a local charity.
- Teach children about other faiths, cultures, traditions, families, communities and ways of life. Encourage the children to share their experiences with the group and allow the children to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others. Learning about festivals and special days, different types of family units, different occupations and places around the world.
- Encourage children to learn about the world around them – both locally and further afield.
  For example:
  - Local trips
  - Using books, stories, posters and videos etc. to learn about places far away
  - Cultural days
  - Local events and activities
  - National celebrations
Cultural Capital at Little Smarties

Cultural capital is about preparing children with the knowledge and skills for what comes next. At Little Smarties, we are aware that children come to us having had different experiences than others. We understand the importance of us helping all children to experience the awe and wonder of the world in which they live in through the seven areas of learning.

Our ‘Nature Nurture’ (outdoor) days, walks, trips out and daily individualised planning, all play a part in ensuring that Cultural Capital is embedded and promoted in our daily practices.