

British Values Week at North & South Cowton Primary School 5th-9th February 2018

Across our school during the last week of the Spring half term, our pupils investigated and explored what it means to be a British citizen. We examined the British Values, what they mean and how we are able to use them in our day to day lives.

We began the week researching the United Kingdom e.g. the countries within the UK; our head of state; our prime minister; the purpose of the Houses of Parliament and national assemblies in the UK; what does MP stand for and how many MPs are there in the British government. Many of these questions are ones that new British citizens are expected to know.

We explored and ensured we understood the meaning of the four core British Values, namely: democracy, individual liberty, rule of law and tolerance, the implications of these in our lives and discussed examples of the consequences of citizens of other places in the world that do not live by a similar set of values. We welcomed one of our School Governors into further discussions. It was particularly interesting to discuss democracy in a week when the right to vote for women in Britain was celebrating its centenary.

To support our learning and deepen our understanding, we invited visitors to explain their work to us. Police officers and magistrates explained their role in our community and society and how they support citizens to uphold British Values, and gave examples of the consequences if we do not!

Our local magistrates put us in the position of being magistrates ourselves and asked us to hear a case and make a decision on what should happen to the accused.

It was very interesting to go over our learning later in the week and demonstrate to another visitor how much we knew about British Values. We had more opportunities to make decisions about issues and consolidate learning in a song: The British Values Song (Whatever the Weather).

We brought together our knowledge and understanding of British Values by writing a Welcome to Britain leaflet for new citizens.