

British Values and Magistrates in the Community

At Little Houghton CE Primary School, we develop and promote British values, together with Christian values, throughout our school and within our curriculum. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic and responsible adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world.

We learn about British Values through remembering:

I Really Do Matter

I - Individual Liberty, **R** - Rule of Law, **D** - Democracy, **M** - Mutual Respect and Tolerance

As part of our work, the children in Y5 and Y6 have taken part in the Magistrates in the Community programme.

Magistrates in the Community (MIC) is the Magistrates Association (MA)'s community engagement initiative. Every year teams of magistrates across England and Wales deliver a huge variety of presentations and discuss subjects such as:

- how magistrates are appointed
- what kind of cases magistrates' courts deal with
- how guilt or innocence is decided
- how a sentence is reached
- topical issues such as cybercrime and bullying

The presentations are fun, exciting, thought-provoking, challenging and satisfying as the programme endeavours to demystify the legal system and educate and interest the children in the work of their local court. It also includes a participative sentencing exercise such as acting out a mock trial, which is great learning and brilliant fun.

The children involved told us more:

'Today I learnt a lot about magistrates, court and the law. I think I've learnt a lot about the magistrate's job in the community and how the law keeps things straight and tidy not chaotic and mad or violent.'

'I enjoyed it a lot especially when I got to decide whether they were guilty or not guilty because I got to be a magistrate. It was exiting learning about the court and what goes on in it. I learnt that the people have to bow to the King's crest and that the usher has to wear a robe and no one else does and that there are always three magistrates so that if there is a split decision there will always be something with more votes than the other.'

'I liked having the role as 'Tom' when we acted out a trial. I learned a lot about different roles in the court-room. I learned lots about maximum sentences, different punishments and types of courts.'

'We learnt that you can be sent to court at the age of 10 and have a criminal record. We also did some scenarios like if a person lost £50 what would you do? We also had a mock trial and all had different parts and I feel like I know a lot more about court and magistrates and what they do.'

'Today two magistrates in the community came to our class, we learnt about illegal and legal things using scenarios. I particularly liked playing the role of a witness. I enjoyed my lines, and as well as that I learnt loads and loads of new things, it was an amazing morning!'

Thank you very much to our visitors who covered a number of British Values during a very exciting morning!

The children of Class 4 – Y5 and Y6.