



Headteacher's assembly 5th January 2026

Freedom has responsibility

Thinking time whilst the children enter assembly:

There are 5 British Values. Can you remember them?

Here are 5 clues:

1. We all follow them to stay safe.
2. Everyone gets a turn to share ideas, like voting.
3. Free to choose and to speak.
4. We listen to each other and use kind words, even if we like different things.
5. We learn about different beliefs and respect them.



*Everyone has the right to freedom of
expression.*

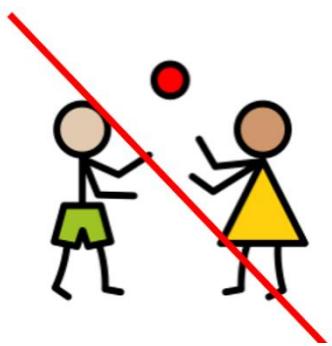
UK Law. Article 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998

After briefly discussing each human right, we looked specifically at **liberty** and its meaning. But with freedom of speech and freedom of choice comes great responsibility; words carry a great deal of power and we need to recognise that. The children came up with their ideas about why and some really insightful answers were given.



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I gave the children a thinking point: what if a new law came in which said that if you complained about sprouts, you couldn't go out to playtime! Of course this was ridiculous, we should be free to express our dislike of sprouts even if we have to eat them! We then took time to think about how words we say to each other can be powerful and have a big impact – we need to use that power positively.

We finished with a poem to think about:

The Magic of Your Words

A word is a little thing,
A sound that you can make,
But oh, the power it can bring,
For goodness gracious sake!

It can be a gentle breeze,
That whispers, "You are smart!"
Or a giant, grumpy sneeze,
That breaks a happy heart.

A kind word is like a sunny day,
It helps a flower grow,
It chases clouds and gloom away,
And makes a spirit glow!

A mean word, though, can sting and bite,
Like a pebble in your shoe,



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It hides away the happy light,
And makes you feel all blue.

So use your words like super glue,
To stick things back together,
Say "I'm sorry!" or "I love you!",
And make things so much better!

Use them to build, not to destroy,
To help and not to harm,
Let every word bring joy,
And cast a happy charm!



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