

Coastal Together

					
Bacton Primary	Horning Primary	Mundesley Infants/SRB	Mundesley Junior	Cantley Primary	Freethorpe Primary
David Hopkins		Abi Howett		Lucy Daisley-Cramp	Robbie Houghton Rosie Maunder
Executive Head - Simon Wakeman - exechead@coastaltogether.co.uk					
Chair of Governors - Annie Edwards chairofgovs@coastaltogether.co.uk Co-Chair Mike Blake m.blake.gov@coastaltogether.co.uk					

Friday 4 March 2022

Dear Parents,

Russia Ukraine War

Coastal Together are a group of schools like many others in the UK that follow the National Curriculum. At its heart is something that is called 'British Values'. These values are something that are not necessarily uniquely 'British', so my preferred title would probably be 'Human Values';

- Democracy
- Tolerance
- Rule of law
- Mutual respect
- Individual liberty

We try to ensure that your children understand why these values are important by the time they leave primary school, through the teaching of our curriculum. At this moment in time, our children are having to contend with some big issues; experiencing COVID recovery and now on top of that, a war which is constantly 'front and centre' in our media diet. It is very difficult for them to escape the constant barrage of information, either through their use of social media, watching TV or hearing others talk about this.

We train our children to be inquisitive beings and this naturally leads to lots of questioning, which is a good thing. However, there are questions which none of us know the answers to, like; 'Is there going to be a 3rd world war?', 'Will Russia launch nuclear missiles?' (questions asked to teachers in school) These are clearly very sensitive and worrying questions. As a group of schools we need to make professional judgements about the appropriateness of responses. Do we simply say 'That is something you'll need to talk to your parents about' or do we try to answer those questions/concerns in school, in an age appropriate way?

The reason I am writing to you, is that I want you to feel confident that we are doing our utmost to uphold the above 'Human Values' whilst not creating further worry for your children. This is an incredibly difficult balancing act, which I know you will appreciate but it just needed to be said. As a parent of four, I have various questions - normally comments (as they are

teenagers and above) regarding the atrocities which they are viewing on their news feeds. It is a topic that comes up quite often. As older children they have a better understanding of what is happening but for your children, who are much younger, it is clearly troubling some of them. We have used (mostly with the oldest children) various resources in classes but only when there has been a significant number of children discussing such issues. We have not been conducting whole school assemblies around these issues, as the age range is too great.

I hope this gives you some clarity around what your child's school is doing to address these issues. If you have any comments/concerns/questions then please get back to me or contact your child's Head of School directly.

Simon Wakeman

Executive Head

HELP WITH HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE



<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>