

What are 'fundamental British values'?

Schools are required to provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. As part of this requirement, we are expected to actively promote fundamental British values.

The government defines these as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

What does this mean for my child?

Our efforts to promote fundamental British values are designed to prepare children for life in modern Britain.

Ultimately, we aim to help pupils understand:

- The importance of combatting discrimination
- How we can influence decision-making by taking part in democratic processes like voting and petitioning
- Our freedom under British law to choose different faiths and beliefs
- That the law is there to keep us safe

FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

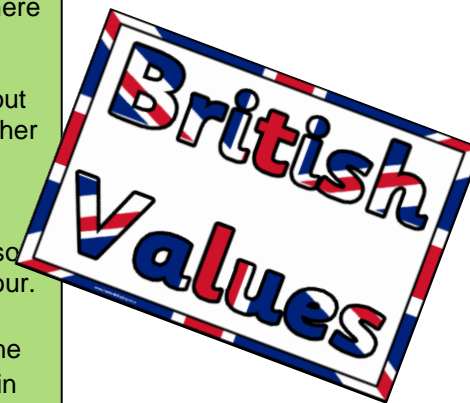
What does this look like in school?

The values are reflected throughout our school, including in our curriculum, ethos, policies and assemblies.

Children also engage with the values through the curriculum, in ways that are suitable for their age and context. For example, in some subjects there are opportunities to think about traditions from different cultures and religions.

Extra-curricular activities such as sports opportunities teach children about the importance of rules. Pupil votes, questionnaires and councils are other ways that children can have their voices heard and learn about democracy.

Our duty to actively promote fundamental British values means that we always present political views to children in a balanced way. We are also responsible for challenging prejudiced or extreme opinions and behaviour. As part of this responsibility, we have put measures in place to protect children from exposure to extremist views. Please feel free to contact the school if you would like more information about this: The Prevent Duty in schools.



Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child still be able to express his/her faith at school?

Absolutely. One of the fundamental values is respect and tolerance of people with different faiths, and we teach our children that British law protects their freedom to hold their own beliefs.

Any prejudice or discrimination towards pupils on the basis of their faith goes against the fundamental British values and will not be tolerated by the school.

How will this affect my child's lessons?

The curriculum provides lots of opportunities to look at fundamental British values. Your child will already have some experience of this in lessons such as religious education (RE) and personal, social and health education (PSHE).

In each subject, our teachers will look out for these opportunities and encourage children to think about how the values link into the topics they are studying.

Will there be major changes to the school's ethos?

Our school's ethos already includes many aspects of the government's fundamental British values. For example, we expect our children to follow the school rules and show kindness to one another. Promoting fundamental British values will reinforce, not change, our current ethos.

Government information

The following guidance and news article from the Department for Education (DfE) may be useful for further information:

Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools, DfE

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf

Guidance on promoting British values in schools published

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance-on-promoting-british-values-in-schools-published>

To promote these values:

- We have an elected School Council where pupil's voices are heard. School Councillors meet as a group and lead meetings back in their own classes, so as to include the voice of all pupils.
- Pupils have the opportunity to complete questionnaires within school, locally and nationally.
- Our collective worship calendar actively promotes these values through the use of SMSC and RE objectives. We have visiting faith leaders who conduct worship, and we also attend the local church for services at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We also use the local places of worship for visits to enhance the curriculum.
- We use "Values-based Learning" in our curriculum and school ethos. This underpins our whole curriculum and the learning that the children undertake, and also underpins the values that we promote throughout our school community.
- Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire Service, etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. In the broad and balanced curriculum that we deliver there is opportunity to discuss these.
- Pupils are actively encouraged and supported to make informed choices, to know and exercise their rights and personal freedom, but safely for example through our e-safety policy.
- Our positive behaviour policy encourages tolerance and mutual respect.
- As a whole school, we have celebrated and marked special local and national occasions such as Remembrance Day
- KS2 Houses and after school activities give children many opportunities to work with a range of different children, following shared rules and celebrating achievements.
- We encourage the children to take on independent roles in the school, such as Playground Pals, Lunch Bunch and Worship Leaders. This encourages the children to develop responsibility, independence and a deeper understanding of rules and how democracy works.
- We work with a range of different charities, some national and some local. These can be UK events such as Sport Relief, or can be to support local charities brought to our attention by pupils and parents.
- We raise money for local charities, for example we have a fantastic response each year to the Rotary Club's Shoebox appeal.

