



FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

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

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, schools 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?

Schools’ programmes for learning about fundamental British values are designed to prepare children and young people for life in modern Britain.

This includes helping 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

What does this look like in our school?

Democracy - We let everyone talk and share ideas

Responsibility - We care about everyone and everything

Respect - We are kind and polite to each other

Equality - I am special and so is everybody else

The values are reflected throughout our school, including in our 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. In the early years it may involve something as simple as sharing and taking turns; listening to one another and learning to be a good friend.

Extra-curricular activities such as games and sporting events teach children about the importance of rules. Pupil votes, questionnaires and class discussions 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my child still express his/her faith at school?

Absolutely. One of the fundamental British values is respect and tolerance of people with different faiths. British law protects people's 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.

How does this affect my child's lessons?

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

Schools should look out for these opportunities and encourage children to think about how the values link into the topics they are studying.

Does this change the school's ethos?

Our school's ethos already includes many aspects of the government's fundamental British values. Promoting fundamental British values will reinforce, not change, our current ethos.



Where to go for more information

Contact the school

If you have any questions or concerns about British values and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school. The school is following the same guidance as every other school in England.

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>

KEY TERMS

Extremism - vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Ideology - a set of beliefs

Terrorism - a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause

Radicalisation - the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism