



British Values Policy

Version 1

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Introduction

The Department for Education states that there is a “need to create and reinforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

The Government first set out its definition of these values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and they continue to underpin the Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (updated September 2023, effective December 2023).

All schools have a duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.”

At Great Oaks School, these values are taught and reinforced regularly through a broad and balanced curriculum including PSHE, Citizenship, RE, Collective Worship, Humanities and the Arts, and through planned themes throughout the school year.

Examples through the planned curriculum include:

History: slavery, civil rights, the Holocaust

Geography: other countries and cultures including Japan, Kenya and Brazil

The Arts: music, art and literature from different cultures and traditions

We take every opportunity to promote British values through our assemblies, whole school themes and structures such as electing the Student Council and Senate. Through a well-planned and differentiated curriculum, we ensure that all pupils, whatever their learning needs, can understand and apply these values in ways that are meaningful to them.

The Fundamental British Values are defined as:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Democracy

Democracy is an important part of life at Great Oaks School.

Each academic year, Student Council and Senate members are democratically elected by their peers. Regular meetings give all pupils a voice and a sense of ownership. Each meeting has an agenda shared with classes beforehand, and minutes are made available to all students.

Examples include:

- Student Council meetings and elections
- Student surveys and questionnaires
- Class votes on key issues
- Learning about local and national elections and the value of having a voice

The Rule of Law

The importance of rules and laws is consistently reinforced at Great Oaks, whether they apply to the classroom, the school or the wider community.

School Rules and Behaviour expectations are shared and displayed throughout the school.

Pupils are helped to understand that laws are there to protect us and to ensure fairness and safety.

The reasons behind rules and laws, as well as the consequences of breaking them, are clearly explained.

Regular visits from police officers, fire service, and other community figures help pupils understand the role of law in everyday life.

Individual Liberty

At Great Oaks we encourage all pupils to make choices and express themselves safely and confidently.

Within a safe and supportive environment, pupils are encouraged to know their rights and responsibilities. They are guided to make informed choices about their learning and participation in school life.

Examples include:

- Making choices in Friday afternoon activities, lunchtime activities and curriculum options at KS4
- Learning about online safety, personal responsibility, and freedom of speech through PSHE and Citizenship
- Developing confidence to share opinions respectfully and make positive decisions

Mutual Respect

Respect is one of the school's core values and underpins everything we do.

We teach pupils that although we are all different, we are all equal and deserve fairness and kindness. Mutual respect is shown through everyday interactions, language and relationships across the school.

We promote fairness and equality of opportunity through teaching and learning, access to facilities, and participation in activities. Respect for one another is celebrated through certificates, assemblies and shared successes.

Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

At Great Oaks we value and celebrate the diversity within our school and our wider community.

Through RE lessons each week, assemblies, and curriculum work, students learn about different faiths and cultures. We celebrate international and national events such as the World Cup, Olympics, and charity days (e.g. Red Nose Day and Children in Need).

We are proud to support a partner school in Zambia, raising awareness and funds through our global links and charity activities. Visitors and performers from other cultures regularly visit school, and pupils take part in visits to places of worship representing different religions.

We also take anti-bullying very seriously, including incidents linked to race, religion, or difference. These themes are explored through our joint British Values and Modern Foreign Languages Week, where students celebrate the many languages and cultures that make up modern Britain.

Safeguarding and the Prevent Duty

Promoting British values forms a vital part of our safeguarding and Prevent Duty responsibilities.

Through learning about respect, democracy and liberty, pupils become more resilient to extremist or discriminatory influences.

Staff receive regular Prevent and safeguarding training.

The school maintains a Prevent Risk Assessment in line with the 2023 guidance.

Concerns relating to radicalisation or extremism are managed through safeguarding procedures and partnership with local Prevent and safeguarding teams.

Assessment and Recording

Pupil work will be marked and assessed in line with school policy for all curriculum areas. Involvement and participation in wider activities will be recorded through:

Certificates and awards

Newsletters

Photographs and displays

Whole school celebrations and events (e.g. Sports Relief, RE Days, British Values Week)

Links to Other Policies

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Behaviour and Regulation Policy

Teaching and Learning Policy

PSHE and Citizenship Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Appendix 1 – Respect Statement

Statement of Equality, Respect and Inclusion

At Great Oaks School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school irrespective of race, gender, disability, nationality, faith or religion or socio-economic background.

We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and are able to participate fully in school life.

Our mission statement talks of the importance of recognising diversity within our school.

We promote British values throughout the curriculum. At the heart of British values are mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith

We welcome students and staff from all sectors of the community and believe that the diversity they bring enhances the life at the school.