



Promoting British Values

Reviewed Summer 2025

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Introduction

As of September 2014, the DfE requires all schools to promote the historical and current values that underpin the national identity known as 'being British'. Within this, all schools are required to ensure that the curriculum actively promotes these fundamental British values.

What is "Britishness"

British values are defined as:

Ofsted	DfE
Democracy	Respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process.
The rule of law	Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England.
Individual liberty	Support for equality of opportunity for all
	Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.	Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs.

The DFE (2014) states that we must

- Ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background.
- Promote the basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.
- Ensure young people understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

The DFE (2014) suggests that pupils need to learn about and understand;

- How citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- That the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- That people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- The importance of identifying and combating discrimination

At Middleton School, through our curriculum, extra curricular activities, teaching and learning and positive relationships with others we will promote British values. We will teach the values that promote cohesiveness within our school and wider community. We will prepare pupils for life within Great Britain among a population which has an increasingly rich diversity of origins, beliefs, backgrounds, lifestyles and cultures.

To actively promote 'British' values at Middleton School we will

- Ensure that these values are shared and discussed in a way that supports the pupils' understanding and is effective in securing these values.
- Challenge pupils, staff, professionals, parents and carers who express opinions contrary to British values.
- Encourage Respect for democracy and for public institutions and services.
- Provide opportunities to work, play and socialise; to enable each individual to become good citizens, take their place in society in an informed, positive and active way and contribute positively to the lives of those working in the locality of the school and to society more widely.
- Explore with our pupils the concepts of self awareness, social skills, a set of moral values, internal discipline, the ability to know what is right and what is wrong and the understanding that rules and laws protect us and keep us safe;
- Develop within our pupils an understanding, tolerance, respect and empathy for social, moral, spiritual and cultural diversity;
- Ensure all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to.
- Demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils
- Consider the role of extra-curricular activity, including any run directly by pupils, in promoting fundamental British values
- Join together in small, large and whole school groups to share opinions and beliefs, learn about the beliefs of others and celebrate achievements for all.

In line with the individual pupils' capacity to understand the concepts and ideas we will focus on four areas:

Democracy

We will

- Provide pupils with general knowledge about public institutions and services and promote respect for the work they do
- Provide pupils with the chance to influence decision making in their own environment and where appropriate link this with the process of democracy on a larger scale.
- Support pupils in developing their own opinions and in learning to argue and defend points of view
- Show pupils how to challenge any perceived wrong in a peaceful manner.

Rule of Law

We will

- Make sure that school rules and expectations are clear, fair and consistently applied
- Help pupils to know right from wrong
- Help pupils to respect the law and understand that it protects individuals.
- Provide pupils with knowledge about different kinds of rules and laws
- Support pupils in developing internal discipline and in making things right when they go wrong.

Individual Liberty

We will

- Support pupils to develop self-esteem and self-confidence
- Encourage pupils to be responsible for keeping themselves and others safe and to be responsible for their own actions.
- Encourage pupils to understand that they have rights but that with rights come responsibilities
- Challenge stereotypes.
- Promote a culture where bullying is not acceptable.

Respect and Tolerance

We will

- Promote respect for individual differences
- Help pupils understand and respect their own culture and religion and those of others
- Challenge discriminatory behaviour.
- Discuss differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations, such as looked-after children or young carers.

Outcomes

Through our work and partnerships, pupils will gain a solid understanding of the values which underpin the privileges, rights, responsibilities and duties of citizenship. We aim to equip our young people with the knowledge, skills and understanding to make a positive contribution to the harmony of our local and national community. This policy will make a key contribution to the positive and respectful ethos of the school.

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