



ALLESTREE WOODLANDS SCHOOL

BRITISH VALUES POLICY

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Statement of intent

In line with the school's CORE values, Allestree Woodlands School understands the importance of supporting students to develop the skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in, and contribute positively to, life in modern Britain.

This policy sets out the framework in which the school will ensure that it actively promotes the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy.
- The rule of law.
- Individual liberty.
- Mutual regard and acceptance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

These values are officially taught throughout the curriculum; however, the school recognises the importance of integrating the teaching of these values throughout all aspects of students' educational life, including through:

- Assemblies.
- Extra-curricular activities.
- Whole School Events.
- Visiting speakers
- Wider opportunities, e.g. educational visits and work experience.
- Literature available at the school.
- The promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Ofsted (2023) 'Schools inspection handbook for September 2023'
- DfE (2014) 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that the British values are upheld throughout the school.
- Holding school leaders to account for implementing and upholding this policy.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy.
- Implementing disciplinary processes where staff fail to uphold this policy.

Staff are responsible for:

- Modelling behaviour that regards and adheres to the fundamental British values.
- Ensuring that students feel as though their views count and supporting them to develop positive self-esteem.
- Implementing and enforcing this policy and other policies and procedures that reinforce the British values, e.g. the Behaviour Policy.
- Treating each other with regard, in line with the school's CORE values.

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.
- Ensuring that teaching methods are designed to bolster students' self-esteem and that all students are given the opportunity to speak and offer their views.
- Ensuring that lessons discuss, pull examples from and are regardful of a diverse array of cultures.

Students are responsible for:

- Treating each other and staff with regard, in line with the school's CORE values.

Aims and objectives

Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our students have:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence.
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- An acceptance 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.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Democracy

Students will be taught, in an age-appropriate way, the advantages and disadvantages of democracy, as well as how democracy works in the UK.

Staff will ensure that students feel as though their views and opinions matter and will be given opportunities to talk about their feelings, e.g. through pastoral support, and the RSHE and PSHE curriculums.

Students will also have numerous opportunities to have their views about the school and their education heard, including through:

- Student questionnaires/surveys.
- The Student Leadership Team.
- Student voice in review and evaluation

Our students are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

The rule of law

The school has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect the school, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. Students will be taught these values and the reasons behind laws that are essential for their wellbeing and safety. The school will organise visits from authorities throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.

Students will also be taught to understand the importance of their own behaviour, the impact that their behaviour has on others, and the consequences of their behaviour, through the implementation and enforcement of the school Behaviour Policy.

All students will be involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding. Students will be allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.

Individual liberty

A safe and supportive environment will be fostered throughout the school, where students are actively encouraged to make choices, e.g. regarding their extra-curricular opportunities.

Students will always have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.

Students will be taught about their rights, personal freedoms and personal autonomy, and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through teaching on online safety, RSHE and PSHE.

Mutual regard and acceptance of those with protected characteristics

The school will ensure that regard for all individuals, regardless of their protected characteristics and/or backgrounds, is promoted throughout the school. Students will be taught about the importance of diversity in British society, and will learn about different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds throughout the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

Staff members will ensure that they always treat everyone, with regard, and will ensure that students learn to treat each other and all members of staff with regard as well.

This is reinforced through the school's Behaviour Policy which will sanction disregardful behaviour and reinforce positive and regardful behaviour.

The school acknowledges that acceptance is achieved through students' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally-diverse society and the opportunity for students to experience such diversity.

Throughout the year, assemblies will be held focussing on bullying, with reference to prejudice-based bullying, and discussion with students will be encouraged.

The school will encourage students of all faiths and religions to share their knowledge and experiences with their peers, as freely as they feel comfortable to, to enhance their learning.

Challenging views that go against British values

The school openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and students, that goes against British values.

The school does not tolerate discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour, and any students displaying this behaviour will be disciplined in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Referrals regarding students that may be at risk of radicalisation will be made in accordance with the school's Prevent duty.

Staff training

Members of staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction and through additional training.

Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the values in this policy.