



Cumberland
School

British Values Policy

Last Update: September 2020

Next Update: September 2021

Context

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

- Guidance on promoting British values in schools (DfE, Nov 14)
- Prevent Strategy (DfE, 2011)
- Keeping Children Safe In Education
- Cumberland School Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Cumberland School PSHE Policy
- Cumberland School SMSC Policy

In November 2014, the Department for Education (DfE) published guidance on Promoting British Values in Schools. The aim is to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain.

The DfE Guidance states that all have a duty to 'actively promote' the fundamental British values of:

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

These values are embedded in the ethos and culture of Cumberland School and are regularly revisited in different ways. For example, British Values are taught explicitly through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE), Religious Education (RE) and Citizenship but the school also takes opportunities to promote British Values through weekly assembly themes and whole school Communication.

Promoting British values as part of our SMSC provision at Cumberland School

Democracy: Democratic values underpins much practice at the school. Students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, Student Surveys and the Senior Leaders open door policy. Elections for School Council representatives are undertaken in each year group and students are encouraged to campaign for votes. Students are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where children feel safe to disagree with each other, and with staff. Tutor groups discuss the merits of Democracy during Form time.

The Rule of Law: The importance of Laws, whether they be those impact on, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day in open discussion, in assemblies, form time and in formal lessons students are taught the value and origins of laws and that they govern and protect us. Individual rights and responsibilities are taught and this involves discussing the consequences of what may happen when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police, Fire Service, etc are part of our assembly calendar and help reinforce this message. We involve students when creating new policies and school rules.

Individual Liberty: Students are actively encouraged to make their own choices. As a school we educate and coach our students to make safe choices, hopefully encouraging them to embrace the empowerment that individual liberty brings by allowing them to do so in a safe and supportive environment. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely.

Mutual respect: Staff role model the showing of mutual respect in everything that we do many of the conversations around school will be based on this core value held by the school; students have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this, what it actually means and how it we show it and feel it. The school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our whole school rules.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith: Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs and those without faith is achieved through enhancing students' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and all subjects are expected to contribute to this ethos across the whole curriculum

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff and is regularly updated and monitored by SLT

Reviewed: September 2020
Next Review: September 2021