

Wantage CE Primary School

British Values Policy

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This document applies to all academies and operations of Cambrian Learning Trust.

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Introduction

The Department for Education (DfE) published guidance in 2014 detailing that all schools have a duty to ‘actively 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 UK government first set out these values as part of their Prevent strategy in 2011 stating that “all schools are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life” and also notes that “schools can facilitate understanding of wider issues within the context of learning about the values on which our society is founded and our system of democratic government”.

What are British values?

Fundamental British values are defined as:

- **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 and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- **Mutual respect for and tolerance:** equal opportunities for all and respect and tolerance of different faiths, religions and other beliefs.

Aims

At Wantage CE Primary School we aim to actively promote British values to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. We aim to make British values relevant to the daily life of children, linking these values to our school vision and values, and aspects of our curriculum.

British values are not taught as a separate subject but are interwoven into our values and our broad and balanced curriculum helping to foster children’s personal, social and cultural development. These values are reinforced at Wantage CE Primary School in the following ways:

Democracy

The word democracy means “rule by the people.” It comes from the Ancient Greek words demos (“people”) and kratos (“rule”). It is a fundamental British value, through which we acknowledge that everyone is entitled to contribute to how our country is run.

The principles of democracy are embedded in our school’s values – Love, Respect, Hope, Forgiveness, Courage and Thankfulness.

At Wantage CE Primary School, pupil leadership is actively encouraged. During their time at school, all our children have the opportunity to stand for a wide range of leadership opportunities, including becoming a school prefect, representing their class in our Pupil Parliament, as play leaders, and as school ambassadors in Art and Reading. Through these roles they learn to listen to, and respect, the views of others, and that leadership is both a privilege, and a responsibility.

We want our pupils to leave our school as a well-educated, self-confident and caring member of society.

At Wantage CE Primary School, pupils learn about democracy and value the democratic process and come to understand that this is the way our country is governed. They know that their voice is heard, but also that everyone’s views count equally. This helps them to become active members of a democratic society.

We promote equality of opportunity for all, irrespective of gender, race, creed, ability or disability.

The democratic processes within school ensure that all pupils can contribute to school development. All members of our school community, including pupils, staff, governors, and parents have the opportunity to play a role in making decisions in our school.

The Rule of Law

An important part of British values is the understanding that any society or community can only work well, and protect all its members, if there are rules which everyone is expected to follow.

The importance of the rule of law is embedded in our school’s values and behaviour expectations.

Within our curriculum, and especially through our History and PSHE curriculum, pupils are taught how democracy and the rule of law became established, and how they function in modern Britain today.

Individual Liberty

The liberty of individuals, to be themselves, and to express themselves is an important part of our understanding of being British.

The principle of individual liberty is embedded in our school's values and Christian ethos. Every child in our school is valued as an individual, and we aim to allow their unique personalities to shine through. We come to know our children very well and celebrate their different gifts and talents through opportunities for them to share their interests in class, and with the whole school.

Children are encouraged to be reflective, and to learn to take responsibility for themselves. This includes reflecting on their own work through our Learning Powers. Within our school community, pupils are able to develop an understanding of how the concept of personal liberty works within a society.

We promote equality of opportunity for all.

Children are encouraged to develop as individuals, and to understand that others are equally entitled to do so. By being part of our school, they learn that within individual liberty, there is a responsibility to respect the rights of others.

Mutual Respect & Tolerance

Respect and tolerance are vital in any civilised society and have long been a key part of being British citizens. It is of the greatest importance that our children learn to understand and respect each other and other members of our local and wider community.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs is embedded in our school's values.

We respect our children's individuality, encourage creativity and support every child to make the most of their abilities.

All children are encouraged to develop their interests and skills, and to be open to learning new things. An extensive programme of extra-curricular activities allows them to explore different interests. Our exciting and engaging curriculum encourages children to learn about the world, and to understand that there are many different faiths and beliefs. They learn that it is acceptable to have strong beliefs, and to uphold them firmly, but that it is also important to understand that other people have equally strong beliefs which must be respected.

Other Policies

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Objectives