



Date	Review Date	Coordinator
September 2020	August 2021	Mr L Adlington

Towngate Primary Academy British Values Policy

The Promotion of British Values

The British Government believes that, *'British society is founded on fundamental values and principles, which all those living in the UK should respect and support. These values are reflected in the responsibilities, rights and privileges of being a British citizen or permanent resident of the UK. They are based on history and traditions and are protected by Law. There is no place in British society for extremism or Intolerance.'*

On 27 November 2014, the Department for Education published guidance on promoting British values in schools to ensure young people leave education prepared for life in modern Britain. Towngate Primary Academy has a duty to 'actively promote' the fundamental British values first set out by the Government in the 'Prevent' strategy in 2014, of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Aim of the policy

- To ensure that all stakeholders connected with the academy are aware of our values, including where and how British Values are promoted.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of the British Values curriculum.
- To ensure that all pupils' education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why, including being able to distinguish right from wrong and understand how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience in a safe environment.
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and appreciate and be tolerant of the many cultures that enrich our society, and to not cause prejudice or discriminatory actions.
- To give pupils the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility with an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.
- To help our pupils towards independent learning and to equip them with all life skills in order for them to take their place in modern Britain.

Examples of actions schools take to promote British values include:

- Inclusion in suitable parts of the curriculum - as appropriate for the age of pupils/students - material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries;
- Ensure all pupils/students within school have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a Pupil/Student Council whose members are voted for by the pupils/students;
- Use opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections to promote fundamental British values and provide pupils/students with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view;
- Engage in Parliament Week to understand the functions and the structure of the British Government;
- Consider the role of extra-curricular activity, including any run directly by pupils/students, in promoting fundamental British values.
- To provide opportunities for all children to experience the cultural capital of where they live.

Promoting British values at Towngate Primary Academy

We agree with the Department for Education's definition of British values:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Pupils will encounter these principles every day within school through our promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. Listed below are some examples of how we promote these values in our school community:

Democracy

Democracy is richly embedded within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council (representatives are elected by the children during a democratic process), Prefects, Sports Leaders and through pupil voice questionnaires from subject leaders. Pupil voice is significant in regards to life at school, it is conducted throughout the year so that the children have a say in how the school improves. We know that the formation of the School Council and the active participation of our pupils will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.

The Rule of Law

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to.

This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum. The involvement of our pupils in the creation of their class vision helps them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken, this document is referred back to throughout the year. We allow opportunity to debate and discuss the reasons for laws so that children can recognise the importance of these for their own protection, often through the use of Picture News resource. Throughout the year, we welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, war veterans, the fire brigade and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real-life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.

Towngate Primary Academy uses a restorative approach to behaviour, whereby all adults as well as the children have been taught how to de-escalate any problems that may arise through structured discussions with all parties involved until an agreeable resolution has been found.

Individual Liberty

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture across the academy, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely through: Picture News assemblies, PSHE lessons, Anti-Bullying and E-Safety weeks.

We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. We believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily life will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect is at the core of our academy; all members of the school community treat each other with respect. Displays around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy.

The children learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the academy community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment with our ethos being '[Inspire self-belief, instil moral values and ignite a love for life-long learning.](#)'

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Towngate Primary Academy, we recognise our role in preparing children for life in modern Britain. We actively promote celebrations of diversity of different faiths and cultures. Our religious education syllabus is the Wakefield agreed syllabus. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.

Extremist Views

The academy will not tolerate extremist views and this will be dealt with by liaison with the appropriate bodies. The school is aware of the need to be vigilant when it comes to extreme attitudes or behaviour of any kind and appropriate actions will be taken accordingly. All staff are trained in the prevent duty. Our overriding aim is to teach children to be resilient to such attitudes. This involves pupils being taught how to ask probing questions and make informed judgements.

Equality and Diversity

We are committed to valuing diversity, tackling discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relationships between people. We aim to provide an education which is sensitive to individual needs and accessible to all children regardless of special educational need, sexual orientation, sex, race, religion and belief, gender reassignment or disability. The academy seeks to promote awareness, understanding and respect for diversity in our world. This is achieved through the celebration of special days and festivals; an engagement with awareness raising events and the embedding of lessons learned through the achievements of individuals from diverse backgrounds across disciplines and through history.

Political Matters

From time to time, political matters will be raised by pupils or others. Our policy is that political matters can be discussed with pupils in a balanced, non-biased manner, we support our children in understanding political matters at an age-appropriate level by the use of our Picture News resource.