

What are 'fundamental British values'?

Schools are required to provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. As part of this requirement, we are expected to actively promote fundamental British values.

The government defines these as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

What does this mean for my child?

Our efforts to promote fundamental British values are designed to prepare children for life in modern Britain.

Ultimately, we aim to help pupils understand:

- The importance of combatting discrimination
- How we can influence decision-making by taking part in democratic processes like voting and petitioning
- Our freedom under British law to choose different faiths and beliefs
- That the law is there to keep us safe

What does this look like in school?

The values are reflected throughout our school, including in our ethos, policies and assemblies (which are on a variety of themes – see the assembly list on the Parents' Page).

Children also engage with the values through the curriculum, in ways that are suitable for their age and context. For example, in some subjects there are opportunities to think about traditions from different cultures and religions. At different times of the year our children learn about and celebrate festivals such as Diwali, Jewish New Year and Chinese New Year. During the recent General Election all Key stage 2 children took part in mock elections.

Extra-curricular activities such as games teach children about the importance of rules. At the beginning of the school year classes agree their ground rules and display them. Pupil votes, questionnaires and the school council are other ways that children can have their voices heard and learn about democracy; this can be to have an input in the school menu or to determine school houses and reward systems.

Our duty to actively promote fundamental British values means that we always present political views to children in a balanced way. We are also responsible for challenging prejudiced or extreme opinions and behaviour.