



British Values

“Fundamental British values” are a set of social attitudes thought to maintain social cohesion and equality.

Democracy describes our national electoral system and the skills needed to participate in it successfully. Democracy relies on listening to the needs of everyone and adapting a decision until the vast majority agree. Not every need and not every person can be accommodated all the time. The democratic process requires rigorous thinking, perspective-taking, patience, and understanding.

Individual liberty is the right of British citizens to make choices regarding the elements of their life that are outside of government control. This refers to freedom of speech and the right to make choices about our education, food, beliefs, opinions, work, family, etc.

The rule of law refers to creating an attitude of accountability and respect towards the laws and rules of institutions and nation-states.

Mutual respect and tolerance is an attitude that recognises and respects the individual liberty of others – even if their choices, lifestyle and beliefs are ones you don’t agree with or like.

Having rules at school, giving students choices, discussing huge social issues, and socialising with diverse ranges of the population establishes the skills needed to participate and integrate into British life.

Promoting Democracy in the Classroom

To prepare students for future elections and democratic processes, it’s essential you teach students how to engage successfully with democracy.

Teaching Children about Individual Liberty

Individual liberty is all about the choices we make that are outside of government remit.

Teaching the Rule of Law

This is central to every child’s education. It’s about teaching children why we have laws and rules in organisations, at home, and at a national level – and, it’s about teaching children, adolescents, and young adults that they have a central role to play in deciding and changing the laws that govern them.

Encouraging Mutual Respect & Tolerance

In every society, there are going to be those who are intolerant. However, every education professional can teach children to be brave enough to speak up against intolerance when they see it and to respect individual difference.