British Values at Meanwood

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| Introduction | [Promoting Fundamental British Values is part of the broader Spiritual, Moral, Social and C](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-through-smsc)ultural (SMSC) agenda in schools in England. Schools are expected to promote British Values as one aspect of SMSC development, alongside other aspects such as spiritual and moral development, social skills, and cultural awareness.  The aim of promoting British Values as part of SMSC is to help students develop a sense of identity, respect for others, and an understanding of the society they live in. By promoting British Values as part of SMSC, schools are encouraging students to engage with British society and its values in a positive way, while also promoting their holistic development.  The British Values are:   * \*democracy. * \*rule of law. * \*individual liberty. * \*mutual respect and tolerance   We are proud to include a wide range of social, ethnic and cultural mix of pupils in our school.  Our core values of kindness, respect and responsibility embody British Values.  British Values are taught within our wider curriculum and covered through PSHE lessons (see Curriculum overview) |
| Democracy | **Democracy is the foundation of the UK's political system. This British value is based on the idea that everyone should have an equal say in how their country is run, and that the government should be accountable to the people.**  **At Meanwood,** our children learn about democracy through:   * Class voting for the election of school councillors at the start of the year; * Providing pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services; * Teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process; * Through our school curriculum; * Encourage pupils to become involved in decision-making processes and ensure they are listened to in school; * Help pupils to express their views; |
| Rule of Law | **Respect for the rule of law means that everyone in society is treated equally and fairly, and that everyone follows the same rules and laws. This value promotes a sense of order and stability in society, and helps to prevent crime and other harmful behaviours. The UK justice system is a large part of this, including laws, police officers and courts.**  **At Meanwood,** our children understand that the school rules are just like the laws of the country in that they exist to ensure everyone is safe from harm. They also understand that consequences for poor behaviour in school are reflected by sanctions and punishments given to adults by the police and courts.  Good links exist with the local PCSO team who visit school to build positive relationships with children and to address any issues in the local community relevant to children.  At Meanwood, we:   * Ensure school rules and expectations are clear and fair; * Class rules and celebration of adhering to these rules; * Help pupils to distinguish right from wrong; * Help pupils to respect the law and the basis on which it is made; * Help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals; * Explore within our Personal Development Lessons laws and what to do if peer pressure is trying to persuade children to break these |
| Respect & Tolerance | **Mutual respect and tolerance both promote understanding and acceptance of people from different backgrounds and with different beliefs, and help to create a more inclusive and diverse society.**  At Meanwood, we use the LA agreed syllabus for RE which studies a range of religions and cultures.   We ensure that during their time at Meanwood, children have the opportunity to develop their understanding of RE through visits to local churches, a mosque, a Hindu temple and a synagogue.   * Explore positive role models (where possible) through our topics who reflect the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equality Act; * Challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; * Organise visits to places of worship * Our RE scheme ensures that our children have a good understanding of a range of religious beliefs and customs; * Help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life; |
| Individual Liberty | **Individual liberty allows people to pursue their own goals and interests, providing they do not harm others. This British value is based on the idea that people should be free to make their own decisions and choices within the bounds of the law, of course.**  **At Meanwood,** our children are given opportunities to play sports in PE and also to take part in lunchtime and extracurricular sports activities, including entering competitions against other schools. Through sports, children learn to respect the rules of the game, to respect team mates and opponents and to play fairly.  Pupils take on positions of responsibility, including as School Councillors, Reading Ambassadors or through various monitor jobs in class.   * Support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem, self-confidence; * Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights; * Model freedom of speech through pupil participation, while ensuring protection of vulnerable pupils and promoting critical analysis of evidence * Challenge stereotypes; * Implement a strong anti-bullying culture; * E-Safety units of work are taught throughout school |