

Why do we have British Values?

Why do we have British values? One of the reasons why British values are so important is that they help to prepare young people for life in modern Britain as they grow older and leave school. Another example of why British values are so important is that they are an important element of safeguarding, as they help to prevent extremism and radicalisation.

British Values were first introduced in schools and early years settings in 2014 when the Department for Education published guidance on British values in schools in November 2014, stating the purpose as: '*to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs*'. The guidance also states that all independent and state-maintained schools have a duty in promoting British values.



How are British values taught?



Teaching British values to children improves their spiritual, moral social, and cultural (SMSC) development. The British values underpin what it is to be a British citizen in what is a modern and diverse Britain, and promote moral and cultural understanding that celebrates the diversity of the UK.

How many British values are there?

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What are these 5 British values?

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British Values:

- Democracy;
- The rule of law;
- Individual liberty;
- Mutual respect;
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

Teaching British values in schools can occur in the following ways:

Democracy

Pupils, parents, and staff should have the right to have their voices heard. This can be achieved through a pupil-elected school council, where class representatives raise issues and suggest ideas for improvement. Parents and guardians should also be given the opportunity to express any concerns or queries through Class Dojo and parents' evenings.

The rule of law

The importance of law and rules should be referred to and reinforced to teach students to distinguish between right and wrong. This will teach children to take responsibility for their own actions. Pupils will be taught the reasons behind rules and laws, how they govern and protect us, and the consequences of what happens when these laws are broken. Invite guest speakers to the school and allow children to get involved in workshops to reinforce this teaching.

Individual liberty

Promote the freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs in a safe environment. Teach children to take responsibility for their behaviour. They are supported to understand that they have rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely. Pupils should be supported to become as independent as possible. This can be demonstrated through PSHE lessons and assemblies.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths or beliefs

Pupils are taught to show empathy and understanding of people from different backgrounds. Give pupils regular opportunities to learn about different cultures and beliefs to reinforce messages of tolerance and respect. This will allow them to understand and respect values that differ from their own.

The main teaching principles for students learning British values

- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.
- Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem, and self-confidence
- Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely
- Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation for and respect for their own and other cultures
- Encourage respect for other people

Prevent duty and fundamental British values

Prevent duty and fundamental British values work synonymously together, as they both send the same messages that are intended to deter young people from becoming victims of radicalisation and extremism in Britain. The aim of British values is to encourage children to have tolerance for different belief systems. By teaching British values, schools, in effect, combine these elements of safeguarding, prevent duty, and British values together.

British Values and the Early Years Foundation Stage

The British values meanings allow them to fit well into the Early Years Foundation Stage areas of learning. This can be achieved through explicit discussion or simply by promoting and practising British values in day-to-day operations.

The five British values are evident throughout the EYFS areas of learning and development, particularly within the area of personal, social and emotional development and understanding the world. In early education, children are taught how to be kind, respectful, and tolerant of others. This supports children with accepting that others have different cultures, faiths and traditions.

What is democracy in British values?

What is democracy in British values and how does this relate to early years?

The British value of democracy is evident throughout EYFS and can be seen in the early learning goals (ELGs) for personal, social, and emotional development. Simple ways of ensuring children are aware that their opinions, and those of their peers, are valued and taken into account, allow children to take ownership and leadership of their own learning. Practitioners could produce a simple photo book of the activities and resources available within your setting, and allow children to decide which of the provisions they would like to access. Alternatively, some settings provide a larger variety of resources that allow children to make choices throughout their play.

What is individual liberty in British values?

What is individual liberty in British Values and how does this relate to early years?

Individual liberty includes helping children to make their own decisions and encouraging them to understand that the choices they make can have an impact on their peers. With links to self-confidence and self-awareness and the key themes and principles within the EYFS, helps to ensure children see themselves as valued individuals. Having circle times and allowing children to share their emotions is a great way of supporting children's contextual understanding of individual liberty.

What is the rule of law in British Values?

What is the rule of law in British values and how does it relate to early years?

From a young age, children need to understand that we need rules in place to keep us safe, healthy, and happy. Simple rules such as allowing a set amount of children at an activity, or having set routines such as tidy-up times are good ways of implementing age-appropriate rules and boundaries.

What is mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs?

What is mutual respect / tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs and how does it relate to early years?

Help children to respect one another's varying views and opinions by celebrating a range of festivals and events. Ensuring children meet development aims relating to the early learning goal of understanding the world by learning about people and communities is a great way of ensuring that mutual tolerance and respect are embedded in practice and play. Providing a range of cultural and religious provisions and activities such as multi-ethnic dolls and multicultural photos and pictures of a range of people from various backgrounds within your printed materials is a simple way of helping broaden children's understanding of the wonderful diversity of the world we live in.