

The Meadows School



British Values Policy

Updated: October 2022
Date to be reviewed: October 2025
Ratified by Governors: December 2022

Amendment Register

Amendment Number	Date	Detail	Amended By	Approved By
0	October 2022	Initial Issue	E Pace	Headteacher

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1. Context

The DfE have reinforced the need *“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 and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”*

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. All stakeholders at the school have received Prevent training (October 2018).

The school is fully engaged in the promotion of British values in ensuring that all children, staff and governors understand and exhibit these values every day in all that we do, this also extends to the conduct of all parents and visitors within the school.

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at The Meadows. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year; for example, Harvest Festival during the autumn term and carol service at our local church during Christmas. We take great pride in supporting charities, one of these charities is raising money to support adults who require a guide dog for those partially sighted or who have lost their sight completely.

Through this policy we aim to:

2. Aims:

- Enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Encourage students 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 in which the school is situated, and to society more widely
- Enable students 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 of and respect for their own cultures

- Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England

3. What is Values Education?

The Meadows school ensures that children are not only taught but also shown these values on a daily basis. Over the course of the year the children will learn about values that have been linked to themes or celebrations over the year.

These values are on The Meadows British Value Poster in each class room and displays on walls showing the characteristics of some of these values as pictures.

- The main principles that guide you in your thoughts and actions.
- Ethical DNA – a set of instructions hard-wired into your brain that will determine your behaviours without you even realising much of the time.
- Sense of right and wrong, how and how not to behave.
- Values are at the heart of who we are, driving what we do and

how we do it. Where do values come from and why do we need them?

- For many of us they are put in place by the family home from the moment we are born.
- For those children born into dysfunctional families it is vital that they learn values from the adult role models within school.
- These values can make the difference to the growing child as a member of the community, as a citizen, as a friend and as a human being.

4. Values

Over the year the children will learn about the importance and meaning of each of the values that are promoted. They will learn this through stories, discussions and assemblies where a positive ethos is rewarded. All

strategies within the school promote these values from responsibility, when a new child starts at the school, perseverance, being able to manage challenge and failure positively, to respect where each individual understands that the school is an extended family, where we all work and help each other.

5. Democracy:

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at the The Meadows. It is also explored in other subject areas, as well as in class time and assemblies.

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at The Meadows School. Democracy is central to how we operate. An example of this is our School Council. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action.

Students are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage students to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning, progress and behaviour. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our students and their outstanding behaviour both in and outside the classroom.

Parents' opinions are welcomed through methods such as questionnaires, surveys at parents' evenings, newsletters. Parents are supported and guided through parent workshops such as e-safety and the Parent/Carer Group.

6. The Rule of Law:

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at the school. Students are taught the rules and expectations of the school which are highlighted by the student code of conduct and student expectations. Students are taught the value and the reasons behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

7. Individual Liberty:

At The Meadows, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and in a supportive environment. Staff at The Meadows educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education including self-discipline.

Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through online safety and student voice questionnaires.

Within school, students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young students to make choices safely, through our provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our online Safety and PSHE lessons. Students are given the freedom to make choices.

Throughout the curriculum students develop their understanding of individual liberty through studying different events in History and the impact they had. For example, the Gun Powder Plot, VE day, Remembrance Sunday, Black history etc.

8. Mutual Respect:

Students learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments.

Through our school council, children have the opportunity to voice their opinions and make democratic decisions on school life.

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around Core Values such as 'Respect', and students have taken part in discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Our PHSE curriculum focuses on a different value, what it means to us and how this relates to the outside world. Religious education lessons allow for this value to be discussed.

Throughout the curriculum students develop their understanding of respect whether it is through 'fair play' rules in Physical Education, through the themes in a book in English or through events that have occurred in past.

9. Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving the opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school and celebrate festivities throughout the calendar year. The Religious Studies curriculum, which is compulsory for all students, provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

This is achieved through enhancing students understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. The R.E. curriculum ensures that all major religions are taught throughout the school. Significant festivals are celebrated in assemblies and through R.E. lessons.

Throughout the curriculum students develop their understanding of tolerance. They focus on how different countries are different and reasons why, how events in History impact on the modern world and the importance of a global society.

The Meadows strives endlessly to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our Society.

10. Review:

The policy will be reviewed in October 2025