

British Values Policy

Last reviewed: July 2025

This document applies to all academies and operations of Cambrian Learning Trust.

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Document Control			
Author	Director of Education	Approved By	CEO
Last Reviewed	July 2025	Next Review	July 2028
Review Cycle	3 years	Version	2025

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Introduction

The Department for Education (DfE) published guidance in 2014 detailing that all schools have a duty to 'actively 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 UK government first set out these values as part of their Prevent strategy in 2011 stating that "all schools are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life" and also notes that "schools can facilitate understanding of wider issues within the context of learning about the values on which our society is founded and our system of democratic government".

What are British values?

Fundamental British values are defined as:

- **Democracy:** respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process
- **The rule of law:** respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- **Individual liberty:** support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- **Mutual respect for and tolerance:** equal opportunities for all and respect and tolerance of different faiths, religions and other beliefs.

Aims

At St John's CE Academy we aim to actively promote British values to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. We aim to make British values relevant to the daily life of children, linking these values to our school vision and values, and aspects of our curriculum.

British values are not taught as a separate subject but are interwoven into our values and our broad and balanced curriculum helping to foster children's personal, social and cultural development. These values are reinforced at St John's CE Academy in the following ways:

Democracy

- Pupils participate in a School Council, elected by their peers through a democratic voting process.
- Regular opportunities for pupil voice, including surveys and suggestion boxes, encourage children to express their opinions and make choices.
- Children vote on class decisions (e.g. book choices, golden time activities) to understand majority rule and fairness.
- Head Pupils and other pupil leadership roles are selected through applications and voting.
- Fundraising initiatives often stem from pupil-led ideas, promoting collective decision-making and responsibility.

The Rule of Law

- A clear Code of Conduct and consistent classroom rules are established and understood by all pupils.
- Children help to create their class rules at the beginning of the year, learning about responsibility and consequences.
- Assemblies and PSHE lessons focus on fairness, justice, and the importance of rules in society.
- Regular visits from local police officers or community leaders highlight the role of law in the wider world.
- Rewards systems and sanctions help children understand the link between actions and consequences.

Individual Liberty

- Children are encouraged to make choices in their learning, such as how to present work or choose challenge levels in lessons.
- A safe, supportive learning environment allows pupils to take risks, express themselves, and develop independence.
- Pupils are taught how to stay safe through online safety lessons and PSHE, empowering them to make informed decisions.

- Children are encouraged to explore and celebrate their unique talents and interests through extra-curricular activities and themed days.
- Differentiated learning and open-ended tasks allow pupils to develop their own ideas and opinions.

Mutual Respect & Tolerance

- The school's behaviour policy promotes respect, kindness, and empathy toward others.
- Collective worship and RE lessons explore a range of faiths, cultures, and beliefs, encouraging understanding and appreciation of diversity.
- Children learn about tolerance and respect through PSHE themes such as friendships, bullying, and celebrating differences.
- Pupils are given opportunities to interact with people from different backgrounds through school trips, visitors, and community projects.
- Whole-school events such as Anti-Bullying Week, Black History Month, and Interfaith Week highlight the importance of inclusion and respect.

Other Policies

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Objectives