

*Meir Heath Academy  
British Values  
Policy*



*The role of British Values in schools according to the DfE, is to 'create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation to promote the fundamental values of: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of people's different faiths and beliefs'. The government has set out its definition of 'British Values' in their 2011 'Prevent Strategy'.*

**Approved by:** Melanie Southern

**Date 03/9/2021**

**Last reviewed on:** 03/9/2021

**Next review due by:** September 2022



## 1 Aims and objectives

- 1.1 In accordance with the Department for Education, it is the responsibility of schools to actively promote British values in schools. This will ensure that children leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. At Meir Heath Academy, pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance and develop an understanding that, while different people may have different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people that live in the country of England are subject to its law. As part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum', Meir Heath Academy has an obligation under section 78 of the Education Act (2002) which requires all schools to promote the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of children at their school.
  - 1.2 Meir Heath Academy will ensure that the British Value principles are actively promoted, which will have the following outcomes: enable children to develop their confidence and self-esteem, encourage our children to take responsibility for their own behaviour and understand how they can make a positive contribution to those living and working in the local area.
  - 1.3 Through teaching, the children should be enabled to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for, services and public institutions in England.
  - 1.4 Promotion of tolerance between different cultural traditions, will be fostered through enabling children to acquire an appreciation of and respect of, their own and other cultures.
  - 1.5 Characteristics set out in the Equality Act (2010) should encourage children to have respect for others.
  - 1.6 Respect for democracy should be encouraged and support for the participation of democratic process shown.
  - 1.7 Meir Heath Academy aims to prevent the promotion of extreme political views through the teaching of every subject throughout the school. On occasions where political views are brought to the attention of the children, a balanced presentation of opposing views should be offered. This should be:
    - Whilst the children are still in school.
    - During extracurricular activities either, that are provided by the school or by other organisations.
    - Via the distribution of promotional material regarding the school.
  - 1.8 The school aims to protect both children and young people, against the message of extreme violence.
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## 2. Inclusion of British Values in the curriculum

2.1 Originally the definition of 'British Values' was set out in the governments 'Prevent Strategy (2011)'. This strategy was devised to help to prevent people from supporting or becoming involved in terrorism.

The British Values are defined as:

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

## 2.2 Democracy

Children at Meir Heath Academy have the right to be heard, understand teamwork and treat others with respect. This is achieved through:

- PE lessons
- PHSE
- Topic work
- Worship in assemblies (participation is optional)
- The School Council
- Charity work, for example 'Macmillan Coffee morning' appeal.

## 2.3 Rule of Law

Children are taught, from a very early age, the rules of the school, which are as follows: The Movement Rule, the Treatment Rule, the Learning Rule and a rule that is specific to each class (chosen by the pupils), Playground Rules and Safety Rules. Children are taught about the consequences of breaking the law and rules. They are also taught how to keep safe and who will help them to remain safe. This is achieved in school by:

- Behaviour – children are rewarded through the 'Dojos' system and are sanctioned through the 'Think Chart' system. This links to the school's Motto, 'Happy', 'Hardworking' and 'Caring'.
- Assemblies – remind children how they can 'keep safe' when using the internet and who they can turn to for help and support in school.
- PHSE lessons.

## 3.

### Individual Liberty

3.1 At Meir Heath Academy, pupils are encouraged to make choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school, children are educated and provided with boundaries, in order that they can make informed choices. Pupils are

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encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised on how this can be done safely, for example:

- Taking an active part in a broad and balanced curriculum, eg, trips.
- Weekly British Values Assemblies (using Picture News as a resource).
- Meir Heath Academy behaviour rules.
- After school clubs.
- PHSE lessons.
- Esafety.

#### 4. Mutual Respect and Tolerance of others

4.1 One of the core values at Meir Heath Academy is 'respect' and this is embedded in all that is done at the school. Pupils have an in depth understanding of what is expected of them, no matter what differences others have, big or small. The core values of, Happy, Hardworking and caring underpin the work done, both in the classroom and out. This ensures tolerance of those who may have difference faiths and beliefs. Meir Heath Academy challenges the views of pupils, staffs and parents if it is deemed to be contrary to British Values. This includes 'extremist views'. Mutual Respect and Tolerance is taught in school through:

- PHSE lessons.
  - Implementation of the school's 'Behaviour Policy'.
  - Trips to different places of worship.
  - Assemblies (using Picture News). At present, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these are conducted using the 'Virtual Picture News' assemblies in each classroom
  - Topic Work.
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