

British Values

Background

On 27 November 2014 The Department for Education published guidance on promoting British values in schools to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain.

The guidance aims to help both independent and state-maintained schools understand their responsibilities in this area. All 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. These values were first set out by the government in the 'Prevent' strategy in 2011. The changes were designed to tighten up the standards on pupil welfare to improve safeguarding, and the standards on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils to strengthen the barriers to extremism.

Lord Nash said:

“A key part of our plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background.

We want every school to promote the basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

This ensures young people understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.”

How do we actively promote British Values at Pulford?

Pupils:

Examples of the understanding and knowledge pupils are expected to learn include:

Democracy:

- Enable children to express opinions and be involved in decision making in our regular circle time groups and in surveys.
- 'Pupil voice' is heard through groups such as School Council and the Eco committee.
- Children contribute to class debates as part of the English curriculum in key stage 2.
- Children learn about 'people who help us' (public services) in the early years curriculum.
- The PSHE curriculum teaches children strategies for solving perceived injustice peacefully.

Rule of law:

- Children learn about the school rules and why we have them.
- They develop their understanding of right and wrong; fair and unfair.
- They learn that rules help everyone to be safe.
- A home school agreement with parents.

Individual liberty:

- The school ethos and PSHE lessons encourage children to develop their self- knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Children are given opportunities for responsibilities e.g. classroom monitors, Playground Friends, leading in assemblies.

Respect and tolerance:

- The school ethos promotes respect for all.
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural curriculum promotes respect for all cultures.
- Curriculum topics explore a range of other countries and cultures.
- Visits are made to places of worship e.g. Milton Keynes Synagogue and local churches.
- In the RE curriculum children learn about other faiths.
- Similarities and differences between people and families, including those of different faith and ethnicity or with disabilities are discussed throughout the curriculum.
- Through our value of the month.

Staff:

All Pulford staff adhere to the Teacher Standards set out on the DFE website. Those applicable to British Values are in Part 2:

9) Teachers must uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour within and outside school.

9a) Treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher's professional position

9b) Having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions

9c) Showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others

9d) Not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

9e) Ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law