



POLICY ON PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

Rationale

At St Cleer and Blisland Schools we believe that we have an important role in actively promoting fundamental British values. The Department for Education states: School should 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.

We ensure British values are upheld through our school ethos of respect, tolerance and making a positive impact on the lives of other people.

What are British Values?

We have agreed that British Values include:

- Tolerance and respect for people of all faiths, races and cultures
- Knowing what is "right" and what is "wrong", and that all people living in England are subject to its law
- Accepting responsibility for one's own behaviour, showing initiative and understanding how to contribute positively to the lives of those living in the local community and beyond
- Respect for public institutions, e.g. Parliament, the Police, Post Office and NHS
- Respect for democracy and understanding how citizens can influence decision-making through democratic means
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination, prejudice and extremist views.

How we teach British Values

These are some examples of actions we take at St Cleer and Blisland Schools to promote British Values:

- Include in suitable parts of the curriculum, as appropriate for the age of pupils, material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries;
- Ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils;
- Use opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections to promote fundamental British values and provide pupils with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view;
- Use teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths and discussion of global issues.

Suggestions for Subject-specific approaches may include:

- **English:** many books will have themes covering tolerance, mutual respect and democracy. Lessons could look at how these themes are presented and how characters embody these values. Poetry, songs and



languages from other cultures could also be examined. Lessons could explore the meaning of concepts such as liberty, democracy and tolerance.

- **Citizenship:** pupils should be able to understand their personal rights and freedoms, and they should be advised on how to exercise these safely. Pupils should have the opportunity to learn about different models of democracy and take part in votes, pupil voice questionnaires and pupil councils. Topics such as anti-homophobia, equal rights, and e-safety should be taught.
- **RE:** lessons should reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Children should have the opportunity to visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. Schools can actively promote diversity through celebrations of different faiths and cultures.
- **History and geography:** pupils should analyse events in UK and world history where British values have been tested such as both World Wars. In geography, pupils could look at how different cultures live and work throughout the world.

British Values are given a high priority in St Cleer and Blisland Schools, and are at the heart of all that we do. British Values are celebrated in displays around the school, in children's writing and in annual Homework Competitions.

The Pupils School Councils frequently remind the schools of the British Values through leading Assemblies and through the publication of their meeting minutes.

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