

Growing deep roots. Developing good fruit.



Offenham CE First School British Values Policy

Offenham CE First School has an obligation under section 78 of the Education Act (2002) which requires all schools, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, to promote the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of children at the school.

In June 2014, the Secretary of State for Education announced that schools would be required to actively promote British values from September 2014.

The DfE have recently reinforced the need *“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values.”*

The British Values are defined as:

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

Vision

Our school vision, summed up by the words, *“Love, transformation and growth”* plays a huge role in our collective attitude to British values. At Offenham CE First School we are committed to actively promoting British values and this forms part of our wider work in school with children in relation to their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC).

At the heart of these values, lie good relationships in which teachers and children work together towards common goals. It is our aim to ensure we effectively share these common goals with pupils, staff, governors and the wider community. These values are integral to our school vision and are reinforced regularly in a variety of ways enabling all to be transformed daily and enabled to flourish and grow in every area of school life.

Aims and Objectives

At Offenham CE First School we aim to:

- Actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Encourage pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.
- Ensure that principles are actively promoted which:
 - Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
 - Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- Encourage pupils 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 children to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England.
- Promote further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other 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.
- Prevent the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school and take such steps that are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.
- Protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including but not restricted to those linked to Islam ideology, Far Right/Neo Nazi/White Supremacist ideology etc.

This should be:

- While they are in attendance at the school;
- While they are taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised by or on behalf of the school;
- In the promotion at the school of extra-curricular activities taking place at the school or elsewhere including through the distribution of promotional material.

Roles & Responsibilities

The Governors and staff will:

- Ensure that fundamental British values are embedded as an integral part of the ethos and culture of Offenham CE First School.
- Challenge opinions or behaviours in school by students, staff, visitors, volunteers or parents that are contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views.
- Ensure that all visitors to Offenham CE First School do not attempt to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values including extremism or radicalisation.
- Ensure the children understand that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety and that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in Britain are subject to its law.
- Teach our children about democracy and the rule of English civil and criminal law and not teach anything that undermines it.
- Ensure all students within the school, regardless of age, have a voice that is listened to.
- Demonstrate how democracy works and develop an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making by electing a Pupil Parliament.
- Deliver and reinforce fundamental British values through the curriculum, SMSC, PSHE and school assemblies.
- Ensure that our children are taught a balanced RE curriculum, that is broadly Christian but which also takes account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Britain.
- Ensure that our children understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- Ensure that we develop a tolerance and understanding of different faiths, cultures and beliefs by visiting places of worship, inviting visiting speakers to the school and using teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths.
- Enable our children to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to our local community and life in modern Britain.
- Enable our children to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in the community of the school.
- Deliver a balanced programme of assemblies which promote the children's SMSC development.
- Ensure an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination, extremism and radicalisation.
- Ensure that there are effective policies and procedures in place to safeguard and promote students' welfare against the threat of extremism and radicalisation.

This policy was reviewed Autumn 2024 by staff and governors at Offenham CE First School.

To be reviewed Autumn 2025.