



British Values Policy

February 2025

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Approved and adopted by Governors: February 2025

Istead Rise Primary School

British Values Statement

The Department for Education has introduced a statutory duty for schools to promote British Values more actively from September 2014, and to ensure they are taught in schools. This is not something new at Istead Rise Primary School. British values are promoted in so much of what we do during our school assemblies, Religious Education and Personal, Social Health Education sessions.

The values are integral to our long-standing inclusive ethos which complements British values.

As well as actively promoting British values, the opposite also applies: we actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views.

Istead Rise Primary School is committed to serving its community and recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. Istead Rise Primary School is dedicated to preparing children for their adult life beyond the formal curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its pupils.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five key British Values are:

1. Democracy
2. The rule of law
3. Individual liberty
4. Mutual respect
5. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Istead Rise Primary School uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for pupils. The examples that follow show some of the many ways in which we seek to instil British values.

Democracy

Democracy is an integral part of what we do here at Istead Rise Primary. Each school year starts with the election of Pupil Voice representatives through a democratic election process. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through their Pupil Voice, pupil questionnaires, our pastoral support team and informal conversations with other school staff during the day. This allows children to approach adults to spark discussions about issues which concern them or ideas they may have for school improvement.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country are consistently reinforced throughout the school day at our school. From the start of their primary school career, pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Our school values ensure that every child is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment:

- Independence

- Respect
- Perseverance
- Self-reflection

Pupils are taught to use kind hands and feet in all aspects of school life and to consider their words very carefully by passing them through three gates: Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it Kind?

Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service are a regular part of our calendar events and help reinforce this message. During Religious Education, rules for particular faiths are thought about and during other school subjects respect and appreciation for different rules and ideas are reinforced.

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely. For example:

- choices about which charities our school will support each year
- choices about how they record their learning
- choices around the participation in extracurricular activities

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our e-safety and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) themes. Our Anti-bullying policy has been developed in consultation with pupils, staff, governors and parents. The children are taught about the different forms of bullying and what to do when they feel they have been bullied.

Mutual Respect & Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Istead Rise Primary School is culturally diverse and we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Mutual respect is at the heart of our school ethos and core values. Our pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have, and to everything, whether it is a school resource or a religious belief. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community should treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we at Istead Rise Primary School enhance pupils understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- Through Religious Education, SMSC themes and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures – in English through fiction and in Art by considering culture from other parts of the world.
- Enjoying a depth of study during themed projects and days, where we celebrate and enjoy learning about the differences in countries and cultures around the world
- Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.