



British Values Policy

Statement of intent

This policy sets out the framework in which Churnet View Middle School will ensure that we 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.

These values are officially taught through the RE and PSHE curriculum, and are further nurtured through the school's ethos and promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that pupils develop a strong understanding of the principles that underpin life in modern Britain and are fully prepared for life in a diverse and democratic society. It applies to all staff, pupils, and stakeholders and forms part of our wider commitment to SMSC development.

Policy Statement

Churnet View Middle School promotes British Values in line with Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance, Ofsted expectations, and the Prevent Duty. This policy outlines our approach to embedding these values across the curriculum and wider school life.

Legislative and Statutory Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance, including but not limited to:

- Education Act 2002 (Section 78)
- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Prevent Duty)
- Ofsted Inspection Framework

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Behavioural Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
- Anti Bullying Policy

Definition of British Values

The DfE defines British Values as:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

These values are not exclusive to Britain but represent principles that are essential for a fair and just society. They underpin our curriculum and ethos, ensuring pupils understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Roles and responsibilities

- Governing Board
 - The governing board is responsible for the overall implementation of this policy and for ensuring that British Values are consistently upheld throughout the school.
- Headteacher
 - Ensure all staff understand their responsibility to promote British Values through the methods outlined in this policy.
 - Put in place appropriate procedures to support the effective delivery of these values.
 - Report regularly to the governing board on matters relating to British Values, including any concerns and notable achievements.
 - Take disciplinary action, in line with the school's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure, where staff fail to uphold British Values.
- Teachers and Support Staff
 - Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British Values, embedding them within teaching and learning.
- Pupils
 - Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy, and to contribute positively to an environment that reflects British Values.

Aims and objectives

Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our pupils have:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence.
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- An acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Democracy

- Pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard, including through:

- Pupil questionnaires
 - The school council
- Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

The rule of law

- The school has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect the school, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. All pupils are involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding.
- Pupils are taught these values and the reasons behind laws (whether they govern the class, the school or the country) that are essential for their wellbeing and safety. Pupils are allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.
- The school organises visits from authorities throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.
- The school understands the importance of promoting British values through a comprehensive and unprejudiced curriculum.

Individual liberty

- A safe and supportive environment is fostered throughout the school, where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.
- Pupils are taught about their rights and personal freedoms and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through teaching on e-safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

- Respect forms a core pillar of the school's ethos. Pupils are treated with respect and are taught to treat each other and all members of staff with respect.
- This is reinforced through the school's Behavioural Policy and posters throughout the school promoting mutual respect.
- The school acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and provides the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity.
- Throughout the year, assemblies are held focussing on bullying, with reference to prejudice-based bullying, and where discussion is encouraged.
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum.
- The school encourages its pupils from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge with their peers to enhance their learning.

Challenging views that go against British values

- The school openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and pupils, that goes against our school's ethos and promotion of SMSC understanding.
- The school adopts a zero-tolerance approach towards discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour. Any pupils displaying this behaviour will be disciplined in line with the Behavioural Policy.
- Referrals regarding pupils that may be at risk of radicalisation will be made in accordance with the school's Prevent Duty Policy.

Curriculum Vision, British Values, and Six Core Values

At Churnet View Middle School, we are committed to embedding fundamental British Values into every aspect of school life. Our vision is to nurture pupils who are respectful, responsible, and active citizens, equipped to contribute positively to modern British society. We aim to create an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated, and pupils understand the importance of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Our curriculum vision, British Values, and six core values form a coherent framework that shapes every aspect of school life. They ensure that pupils are not only prepared for academic success but equipped with the character, skills, and understanding needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

We believe education should empower pupils to become confident, respectful, and successful individuals who are curious about the world and who are motivated to make a positive contribution to society.

To achieve this, our curriculum:

- **Is appropriately matched to the stage of the pupils**, ensuring progression and challenge.
- **Is inclusive, nurturing, and inspiring**, so that every child feels valued and supported.
- **Extends beyond the National Curriculum**, teaching the skills and content necessary for pupils to have high aspirations and prepare for future learning.
- **Meets individual needs**, providing targeted support for pupils with SEND and additional needs.
- **Offers a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities**, from sports to sign language, enabling pupils to discover and develop talents.
- **Builds a sense of community and respect**, embedding British Values and promoting citizenship and charity.
- **Encourages pupils to achieve the best version of themselves**, fostering curiosity, engagement, and passion for learning.
- **Develops personal and collaborative skills**, offering leadership roles and opportunities to work with others.

Our Six Core Values

Our six core values underpin everything we do. They are not simply statements; they are commitments that shape our culture, curriculum, and daily practice. To meet our core values, we will:

1. **Respect and Care for Relationships and Environment**

We respect, care for, and develop our relationships with each other and our environment. This means creating a school culture where kindness, empathy, and responsibility are central. Pupils learn to value diversity, celebrate differences, and act as stewards of the world around them.

2. **Safety and Pride in Community**

We hold the safety of ourselves and others in the highest regard and ensure that we take pride in our school, local community, and society. This includes promoting physical and emotional well-being, safeguarding every child, and encouraging pupils to contribute positively to their community.

3. **Aspiration and Embracing Challenge**

We have high aspirations, strive to achieve our very best, and embrace challenge. Our curriculum is

designed to stretch pupils intellectually and personally, helping them develop resilience and a growth mindset. We celebrate effort as well as achievement, fostering ambition and perseverance.

4. Literacy and Numeracy for Life

We take every opportunity to develop reading, writing, and numeracy. These fundamental skills are the foundation for success across all subjects and in life beyond school. We embed literacy and numeracy in every aspect of the curriculum, ensuring pupils are confident communicators and problem-solvers.

5. Independence, Creativity, and Lifelong Learning

We become skilled, independent, lifelong learners who are confident, creative, and analytical. Our curriculum encourages pupils to think critically, explore ideas, and take ownership of their learning. We nurture creativity through the arts, technology, and problem-solving activities, preparing pupils for a future where adaptability and innovation are key.

6. Communication and Collaboration for Global Understanding

We communicate and collaborate with others on past, present, and future issues so that we are diverse in our understanding of the world. Through discussion, debate, and teamwork, pupils learn to respect different perspectives and develop the skills needed to work effectively in a global society.

How the School Promotes British Values

We promote British Values through a wide range of strategies and opportunities:

- **Curriculum Integration**

British Values are embedded across the curriculum, particularly in subjects such as PSHE, Religious Education (RE), History, and Citizenship. Lessons explore themes of democracy, justice, equality, and respect for diversity. Pupils learn about the structure of government, the importance of laws, and the role of individual freedoms in society. SMSC development is a key driver in planning and delivery, ensuring pupils reflect on moral and ethical issues and appreciate cultural diversity.

- **Assemblies and Whole-School Events**

Regular assemblies focus on British Values, addressing topics such as democratic processes, respect for others, and tolerance of different beliefs. National events, such as Remembrance Day and celebrations of cultural festivals, provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on shared values and traditions. These assemblies reinforce the importance of community and collective responsibility.

- **Safeguarding and Prevent Duty**

Our safeguarding practices are aligned with the Prevent Duty, ensuring pupils are protected from radicalisation and extremist influences. Staff receive regular training to identify and respond to concerns, promoting resilience and critical thinking among pupils. Through PSHE and pastoral support, pupils learn how to challenge extremist views and understand the dangers of radicalisation.

- **Extra-Curricular Activities**

British Values are reinforced through extra-curricular opportunities, including student council, charity events, and cultural celebrations. The student council provides a platform for pupils to experience democratic processes, voice opinions, and influence school decisions. Participation in community projects fosters a sense of responsibility and mutual respect.

- **Pupil Voice**

We actively encourage pupil voice through surveys, focus groups, and representation on school committees. Pupils are involved in shaping school policies and initiatives, promoting a sense of ownership and accountability. This approach helps pupils understand the importance of democracy and active citizenship.

- **Roles & Responsibilities (continued)**

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy. All teaching and support staff share responsibility for promoting British Values through their interactions with pupils and the delivery of the curriculum. Governors monitor compliance and ensure that British Values remain a priority in strategic planning.

Monitoring & Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and approved by the Governing Body. Monitoring will include lesson observations, scrutiny of curriculum plans, pupil voice feedback, and analysis of extra-curricular participation. Evidence of British Values promotion will be documented and shared with stakeholders as part of our commitment to transparency and accountability.

Together, these policies support a holistic approach to pupil development and wellbeing.

Glossary

SMSC: Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural development.

Prevent Duty: Statutory requirement to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

DfE: Department for Education.

Signed – Headteacher: S Fryer

Date: 20/11/2025

Signed – Chair of Governors: J Thomson

Date: 20/11/2025

Next Review Due: September 2026