

What are British Values?

Fundamental British values are defined by the DfE as:

- Democracy: Respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process
- The rule of law: Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Individual liberty: Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Mutual respect and tolerance: Support for equality of opportunity for all and respect and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values. Attempts to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values would be completely at odds with schools' duty to provide SMSC. The Teachers' Standards expect teachers to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school. This includes not undermining fundamental British values.

Collective worship, establishing a strong school ethos supported by effective relationships throughout the school, and providing relevant activities beyond the classroom are all ways of ensuring pupils' SMSC development. Pupils must be encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

At Waverley Abbey through the delivery of our curriculum and planning for SMSC development, we:

- Include in suitable parts of the curriculum, as appropriate for the age and understanding of our pupils, material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how democracy and the law works in Britain
- Ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to
- Demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils
- Demonstrate the importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. We use teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths
- Treat everyone with respect and tolerance, living out our school values. This is modelled to pupils throughout the day by staff who will continually teach pupils the importance of showing love and compassion. Our school behaviour policy is underpinned by the understanding of respect, and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. This is reiterated through our classroom agreement (signed by all the children and adults in that class), as well as our behaviour policy

The link below gives further advice from the Department for Education.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf