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British Values Policy

2026-2027

Review date: September 2027

Rationale

BASE Academy Trust 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 pupils 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

At BASE Academy Trust 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 pupils work together towards common goals. Much work was already in place to support and embed these values and it is our aim to ensure we effectively share this with pupils, staff, governors and the wider community. These values are integral to our school vision and ethos and are reinforced regularly in a variety of ways. In order to ensure a cohesive and holistic approach to British Values, this policy statement should be considered in conjunction with other relevant policies.

Aims and Objectives

At BASE Academy Trust we aim to:

- Actively 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
- 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 pupils 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 as 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. 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, including through the distribution of promotional material, of extra-curricular activities taking place at the school or elsewhere
- 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.

Roles & Responsibilities

The Trustees, Local Governors and staff at BASE Academy Trust Primary School will:

- Ensure that fundamental British values are embedded as an integral part of the ethos and culture of BASE Academy Trust
 - Challenge opinions or behaviours in school by pupils, staff, visitors, volunteers or parents that are contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views
 - Ensure that all visitors are screened to ensure that they do not attempt to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values including extremism or radicalisation
 - Ensure that our pupils 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 England are subject to its law
 - Teach our pupils about the democracy and the rule of English civil and criminal law and will not teach anything that undermines it
 - Ensure all pupils within the school, regardless of age, have a voice that is listened to
 - Demonstrate how democracy works and by developing an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making by actively promoting democratic processes such as electing a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils
 - Reinforce fundamental British values through the SMSC programme, PSHE curriculum, Citizenship curriculum and the assembly programme
 - Ensure that our pupils 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 pupils 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 pupils 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 pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in the community of the school. E.g. supporting younger children in lessons and delivering extra-curricular activities
 - Deliver a balanced programme of assemblies which promote pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, providing clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong
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- Ensure an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination, extremism and radicalisation
 - Ensure that there are effective risk assessments and screening policies and procedures in place to safeguard and promote pupils' welfare against the threat of extremism and radicalisation.

Integration of British Values into each school within BASE Academy Trust

We want our children to become responsible, active citizens who participate in democracy and public life with respect for diversity and a commitment to working towards greater community cohesion. Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship is at the heart of our curriculum within school. This curriculum emphasises the difference between right and wrong and respecting and tolerating differences in a diverse and modern Britain. We have planned a curriculum that will enable children to make progress towards these aims. Through engaging lessons, appropriate activities, enriching experiences such as visits and visitors and through school core values we can provide pupils with better understanding of themselves and others in the 'community of communities' in which they live.

The table below details some examples of ways in which the promotion of British Values is embedded within school practice. The list is by no means exhaustive but provides some signposts for evidence of practice.

British Value	Key learning and experiences	Example practice in schools within the Trust
Democracy	• To understand and respect the democratic process • To understand how they can influence decision making through a democratic process • To understand how to argue and defend a point of view • To understand the importance of team work	• Pupils are listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with compassion, to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard • Pupils learn about democracy in their topics and English work. See long term plans • Key questions for children at the beginning of new topics 'What do I know already and what do I want to learn?' • Pupil interviews are carried out regularly by staff and Governors • Pupil involvement in Person centred reviews of EHC plans • PSHCE & RE lessons • Election of a School Council • Pupils all contribute to their class rules
The rule of law	• Ability to accept responsibility for their behaviour • Ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and apply this to their own lives • To understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions • Ability to resolve conflict • Understand how to contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality and society more widely • To understand that living under the rule of law protects them and is essential for their well-being and safety	• Core values • PSHCE, RE and P4C lessons • Visitors in school eg police • Celebration assemblies • Classroom rules • The Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies set out a zero tolerance baseline for any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to pupils, staff and parent and carers. School's raise awareness of bullying by being part of the National Anti Bullying Week and Internet Safety Day. • The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies.

Individual liberty	• To understand rights and responsibilities	• Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment • School rules • Robust anti-bullying and discrimination policies • PSHCE (Rights and Responsibilities) and RE lessons • Core values • Classroom rules • E-safety
Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	• To be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise that inform their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values • To be reflective about their own experiences • Interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others • Use a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religions, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds • Participate in a variety of communities and social settings, cooperating well with others • Understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential part of their preparation for life in modern Britain • Understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity as shown by their tolerance and attitudes	• Children learn about respect and tolerance in their topics. • PSHCE, RE and P4C lessons • Core values • A range of different resources are used to support the entire curriculum to help pupils understand and welcome diversity • School rules • Equalities scheme • Pupils working in curriculum areas in different groupings • Participation in community based activities and cross school activities • Visitors invited into school to enrich and extend children's understanding

Staff training

At any school within the Trust staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction. The policy is reviewed and shared with all staff annually. If deemed necessary, staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the British Values Policy.