

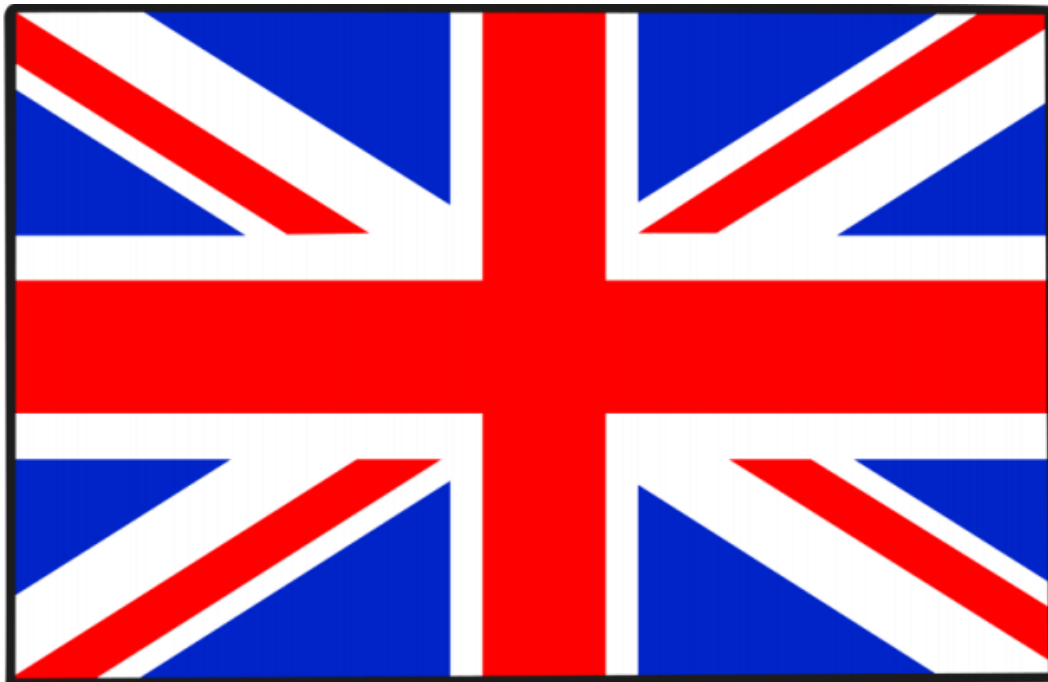
British Values

What are fundamental British values? Here, in our brilliant Teaching Wiki, we will answer the question of 'what are fundamental British values?', by giving all the information you need to know.

Why do we have British values?

So, first things first, why do we have British values? One of the reasons why British values are so important is that they help to prepare young people for life in modern Britain as they grow older and leave school. Another example of why British values are so important is that they are an important element of safeguarding, as they help to prevent extremism and radicalisation.

British values were first introduced in schools and early years settings in 2014 when the Department for Education published guidance on British values in schools in November 2014, stating the purpose as: *'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs'*. The guidance also states that all independent and state-maintained schools have a duty in promoting British values.



So, now we know that promoting British values in independent and state-maintained schools is essential, let's think about *how* these British values are taught within schools.

How are British values taught?

Teaching British values to children improves their spiritual, moral social, and cultural (SMSC) development. The British values underpin what it is to be a

British citizen in what is a modern and diverse Britain, and promote moral and cultural understanding that celebrates the diversity of the UK. Promoting these fundamental British values will usually occur as part of SMSC development in schools, as per advice from the Department for Education.



How many British values are there?

So, how many British values are there? There are 5 British values, although the final 2 values are sometimes counted as 1 value.

What are these 5 British values?

What are the 5 British values? Here is the list of British values:

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

Teaching British values in schools can occur in the following ways:

Democracy

Pupils, parents, and staff should have the right to have their voices heard. This can be achieved through a pupil-elected school council, where class representatives raise issues and suggest ideas for improvement. Parents and

guardians should also be given the opportunity to express any concerns or queries through parent societies and parents' evenings.

The rule Of law

The [importance of law and rules](#) should be referred to and reinforced to teach students to distinguish between right and wrong. This will teach children to take responsibility for their own actions. Students should be taught the reasons behind [rules and laws](#), how they govern and protect us, and the consequences of what happens when these laws are broken. Invite guest speakers to the school and allow children to get involved in workshops to reinforce this teaching.

Individual liberty

Promote the freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs in a safe environment. Teach children to take responsibility for their behaviour. They are supported to understand that they have rights [and personal](#) freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely. Pupils should be supported to become as independent as possible. This can be demonstrated through PSHE lessons and assemblies.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths or beliefs

Students should be taught to show empathy and understanding of people from different backgrounds. Give pupils regular opportunities to learn about different cultures and beliefs to reinforce messages of tolerance and respect. This will allow them to understand and respect values that differ from their own.

The main teaching principles for students learning British values

The advice for all state-maintained and private schools:

- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.
- Enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem, and self-confidence
- Encourage students 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 of the school and to society more widely

- Enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation for and respect for their own and other cultures
- Encourage respect for other people



Prevent duty and fundamental British values

Prevent duty and fundamental British values work synonymously together, as they both send the same messages that are intended to deter young people from becoming victims of radicalisation and extremism in Britain. The aim of British values is to encourage children to have tolerance for different belief systems. By teaching British values, schools, in effect, combine these elements of safeguarding, prevent duty, and British values together.

British values and Ofsted

Ofsted will Consider how a school is promoting British values during an Ofsted inspection as part of their personal development evaluation. This element of an Ofsted inspection considers how well a school's curriculum extends beyond the academic aspects. Schools may have a British values policy that staff and governors are familiar with. Schools may like to share this British values policy with Ofsted inspectors during an Ofsted visit.

Inclusive teaching on British values

Not everyone agrees on what British values should represent, or if they want to promote these. Like all countries and cultures, some elements of Britain's

history were not fair or respectful to all, and 'British values' can therefore be a controversial idea.

Britain is now a multicultural society, with many races and ethnicities defining British values in their own unique way. Teaching about British values should therefore take this into account at all times and recognise that some people may not agree with a traditional, principally white, male, interpretation of what these values should be.