



British Values Statement of Intent

Ridgmont Lower School is committed to actively promoting British values to ensure our pupils leave us fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

The government emphasises that all schools should ensure that they teach pupils about British values. We take every opportunity to promote the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Through the promotion of these values, our school aims to ensure pupils:

- Understand the democratic process and how citizens can have a say in decision making.
- Recognise the advantages of living under the rule of law and how law is essential for a safe society.
- Understand that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary and why it exists.
- Understand the reasons for accountability of institutions and why courts maintain independence.
- Know why freedom of religion protects all faiths, as well as those with no faith.
- Accept that people who hold different religious beliefs should be tolerated and not discriminated against.
- Value the importance of identifying and combatting extremism.

We promote British values both within and beyond the classroom and these values are at the heart of our ethos. Here are just some of the ways our school seeks to embed the teaching of British values.

Value	Approaches
Democracy	<p>Each year the children decide upon their class charter and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the charter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard • Children are also given the opportunity to vote in matters concerning their school environment such as how to improve lunch times and playtimes and meals to be included on the lunch menu • Pupils also take part in pupil questionnaires throughout the year. These are a chance for children to give their views on subjects and on themes such as how safe they feel within school. • Each teacher has different ways in which the pupils make their voices heard in their classroom e.g. through Circle Time, questionnaires, discussions, decisions over classroom rules, voting etc. We make sure we cover main events such as Brexit through assemblies and work in class • Weekly assemblies around British Values • Each child is put into a school house, named after four royal palaces/residencies (Balmoral, Buckingham, Sandringham and Windsor) and they are encouraged to earn Dojo points for their house
The Rule of Law	<p>Behaviour systems and our policy teaches importance of rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days and through school assemblies. The children are taught right from wrong. • 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. • Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; Road Safety Officers etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. (Subject to COVID-19) • The expectations are made clear to all pupils • Each family is provided with a Home School Agreement
Individual Liberty	<p>Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a school we educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons • We also try to give ownership of learning to the children and promote a personal investigative approach. Our shared values in the school promote both staff and children as good role models and we take opportunities to challenge stereotypes whenever the opportunity arises • Opportunities are also taken to explore that with individual liberty and freedom comes responsibilities to the local community and wider world

Mutual Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support events such as 'Anti Bullying Week' • We promote respect through Circle Time/ PSHE • We provide opportunities for children to learn to respect others e.g. when visiting places on school trips • We support charities where they promote respect and tolerance e.g. Jeans for Genes
Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs	<p>This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity: assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of our RE curriculum we visit places of worship e.g. churches, Mandirs, temples, mosques, synagogues and Gurdwaras (Subject to COVID-19) • We celebrate festivals throughout the year from all the world religions • Visitors into school enhance our understanding (Subject to COVID-19) • We have developed a link with a school in Florida, USA.