

# Stratford Rural Schools' Federation



## FEDERATION POLICY FOR PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

Version 1	January 2016
Adopted by the Governing Body	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
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This is a non-statutory policy

## **Introduction**

The schools within the Stratford Rural Schools Federation have 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 children at our schools.

In June 2014 the Secretary of State for Education stated that schools would be required to actively promote British Values from September 2014. The Department for Education have also reinforced this need to 'create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation of all schools to promote the fundamental British values'.

The government originally set out its definition of British values in its 2011 Prevent Strategy. The British Values are defined as:

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

We recognise that these values are not unique to Britain and are shared by many people in the world.

Our schools 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. At the heart of these values lie good relationships in which teachers and children work together towards common goals. We work hard to support and embed these values and it is our aim to ensure that we effectively share this with children, staff, governors and the wider community. These values are integral to our schools' vision and ethos and are reinforced regularly in a variety of ways.

## **Aims and Objectives**

- 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 children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
  - Enable children to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
  - Encourage children to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to those living and working within the locality in which the school is situated, and to society in general
  - Enable children 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 children to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures

- Encourage respect for other people, paying particular attention 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 reasonable steps to ensure that if political issues are brought to the attention of children 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. This also applies to extra curricular activities promoted by the school even if not provided by the school
- Protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism, including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamic ideology/the Far Right/Neo Nazi/White Supremacy etc.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Governing Body and staff at our schools will:

- Ensure that fundamental British Values are embedded as an integral part of the ethos and culture of the schools in the federation
- Challenge opinions or behaviours in school by children, staff, visitors or parents that are contrary to fundamental British Values, including extremist views
- Ensure that all visitors do not attempt to promote systems that undermine fundamental British Values including extremism or radicalisation
- Ensure that our children understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals and is essential for their wellbeing and safety, and that, while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people in England are subject to its laws
- Teach our children about democracy and the rule of English civil and criminal law, and will not teach anything which undermines it
- Ensure all children within our schools, regardless of age, have a voice that is listened to
- Demonstrate how democracy works 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 children
- Reinforce fundamental British Values through SMSC and the PHSE curriculum, assemblies and citizenship opportunities
- Ensure that children are taught a balanced RE curriculum that follows the Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus
- Ensure that children understand that people have the freedom to choose other faiths and beliefs and that this right is protected in law
- Ensure that we develop 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 children understand a range of faiths

- Enable our students 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 children 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 and delivering extra curricular activities
- Deliver a balanced programme of assemblies which promote children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, providing clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong
- Ensure an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination, extremism and radicalisation
- Ensure that there are effective risk assessments and screening procedures in place to safeguard and promote children's welfare against the threat of extremism and radicalisation