

BRITISH VALUES STATEMENT



Promoting Fundamental British Values (Updated 2026)

The Department for Education (DfE) expects all schools to actively promote the fundamental British Values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Respect and understanding of people with different faiths, beliefs and backgrounds

These values are central to life in modern Britain and support pupils in becoming responsible, respectful and active citizens. Schools are expected to promote these values through their curriculum, ethos, policies and everyday practice, enabling pupils to develop an understanding of their rights, responsibilities and role within a diverse society.

Ofsted evaluates how effectively schools promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and prepare them for life in modern Britain. Inspectors consider how well schools foster a culture of inclusion, equality, respect and belonging, ensuring that British Values are embedded throughout school life and not simply taught as a discrete topic. Schools are expected to demonstrate a clear commitment to these principles through their vision, curriculum, relationships and wider opportunities for personal development. [nga.org.uk], [gov.uk]

The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on schools to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not. At Russell Street Infant School, we are committed to creating an environment in which every child is valued, respected and able to thrive regardless of their background, culture, faith, disability, gender, family structure or personal circumstances.

We ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, explored and lived through the ethos and daily life of our school. Opportunities to promote these values are woven throughout our curriculum and enrichment activities, helping children to deepen their understanding through meaningful experiences. Through high expectations, positive relationships and a culture of inclusion, we encourage our pupils to become confident, compassionate and independent learners who show respect for themselves and others.

Our aim is to nurture children who are safe, kind, resilient and responsible members of society. We want every child to leave our school with the knowledge, skills and values needed to contribute positively to their local community and the wider world.

Cultural Competence

Through our curriculum, we actively promote cultural competence and global citizenship. Cultural competence is about developing the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to live positively and respectfully in a diverse society. It enables children to appreciate different perspectives, challenge stereotypes and recognise the value that diversity brings to our communities.

We support pupils to:

- Develop a positive sense of identity, self-worth and belonging.
- Understand and respect people from different backgrounds, cultures, faiths and belief systems.
- Recognise and challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotypes.
- Appreciate diversity and celebrate the richness it brings to society.
- Develop empathy, kindness and respect towards others.
- Understand concepts of fairness, equality and social justice.
- Recognise how they can contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable world.

By promoting cultural competence alongside the fundamental British Values, we help children recognise both the diversity and shared humanity that exist within our communities. We aim to develop thoughtful, compassionate and informed young citizens who value difference, respect others and contribute positively to modern Britain.