



British Values

In June 2014, David Cameron emphasised the important role that British values can play in education. Although in 2014-15 this is something which is developing in its significance for schools, it is not something new at Wentworth. British values are promoted in so much of what we do, including our:

- School collective worship
- Through planned activity days
- Through sessions in targeted and age appropriate curriculum topics
- Religious Education
- PSHCE
- Through our termly values focus
- Our clubs and extra-curricular activities
- The work of school council and other pupil led activities
- Our general positive and inclusive ethos

As well as actively promoting British values, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views.

The term 'British values' might be slightly misleading in that these values are integral to so many countries throughout the world – they differ in no way from the values of most western European countries. Below are just a few examples of how we promote British values.

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Wentworth. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of our local community and Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions, such as customs in the course of the year.

We also value and celebrate national events.

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Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different specific perspectives in curriculum topics for example:

Geography: where we ensure that children have a better understanding of what Britain is, learning more about its capital cities and counties, its rivers and mountains, where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world.

History: Britain and its influence in modern times are aspects woven into our thematic topics

Music; study of British composers and their influence world wide

Art: study of how British artist influence others

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Wentworth. Democracy is central to how we operate.

An obvious example is our School Council. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates create manifestos, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret etc.

The council is made up of two representatives from each class plus a school council chair and vice chairperson, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes

Other examples of 'pupil voice' are:

- Children agree their Class Rules at the start of term
- Children have the opportunity to form groups and clubs

Rules and Laws

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses and sets its own class rules, a set of principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment.

In addition values are reinforced in other ways:

- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- During Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules – in a sports lesson, for example

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely; for example:

- Choices about what learning challenge or activity to do
- Choices about how they record their learning in their homework
- Choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities
- Choices about lunchtime options

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our e-safety, drug, relationship and PSHCE lessons.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Wentworth is in an area which serves a mainly white British population however we are proud to promote and celebrate the different backgrounds and beliefs that our pupils may encounter throughout their life and not just during their time with us. Mutual respect is implicit in our aims and ethos.

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Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have, and to everything, whether it is a school resource or a religious belief.

Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community should treat each other with respect.

Specific examples of how we enhance pupils understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are: Through Religious Education and other lessons where we might develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures – in English through fiction and in Art by considering culture from other parts of the world.

Sadly, no school can guarantee that there will never be instances which are contrary to this value. At Wentworth, such instances are rare and they are treated seriously.

Effective Date

This policy became effective in summer 2014, will reviewed in summer 2016.