

Victoria Junior School



British Values Statement

Reviewed by GB January 2022

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Rationale

Victoria Junior School is committed to actively promoting the Core British Values and serving its community. We recognise that this includes challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to these core values. We recognise the multicultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand the vital role we have in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them. We follow equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. Victoria Junior School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal curriculum and ensuring that we promote and reinforce British Values to all pupils. The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five British Values are:

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

At Victoria Junior School we are committed to actively promoting British values, which complement our own vision and values statement. We use strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure outcomes for our children.

Aims and Objectives

At Victoria Junior School we aim to:

- 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 pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence

- Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Encourage pupils 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 in which the school is situated and to society more widely
- Enable pupils 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 pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures
- Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard 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 such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils 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
- In the promotion at the school, including through the distribution of promotional material, of extra-curricular activities taking place at the school or elsewhere
- Protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including but not restricted to those linked to Islam ideology, Far Right/Neo Nazi/White Supremacist ideology etc.

Roles & Responsibilities

The Governors and staff at Victoria Junior School will:

- Ensure that fundamental British values are embedded as an integral part of the ethos and culture of Victoria Junior School

- Challenge opinions or behaviours in school by students, staff, visitors, volunteers or parents that are contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views
- Ensure that all visitors to Victoria Junior School are screened to ensure that they do not attempt to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values including extremism or radicalisation
- Ensure that our students understand that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety and that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law
- Teach our students about the democracy and the rule of English civil and criminal law and will not teach anything that undermines it
- Ensure all students within the school, regardless of age, have a voice that is listened to
- Demonstrate how democracy works and 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 students
- Reinforce fundamental British values through the PSHE and wider curriculum and the assembly programme
- Ensure that our students are taught a balanced RE curriculum, that is broadly Christian but, which also takes account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Britain
- Ensure that our students understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- Ensure that we develop a 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 pupils 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 students to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in the community of the school.
- Deliver a balanced programme of assemblies which promote students' 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 policies and procedures in place to safeguard and promote students' welfare against the threat of extremism and radicalisation.

Embedding Core Values

Victoria Junior School uses strategies within the National curriculum and beyond to secure the development of the five British Values for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways Victoria Junior School strives to consistently embed British values.

Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at Victoria Junior School, with democracy processes being used for important decisions within the school community, for instance the School Council elections every September, House Captain votes and Governor elections. The principle of democracy is also explored in the History and Religious Education curriculum as well as in class time and assemblies.

The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Victoria Junior School. Pupils are taught the rules and expectations of the school which are highlighted by the Pupil Code of Conduct, Behaviour Policy and the expectations that are shared with all pupils. All pupils are supported to understand the value and the reason behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from public services such as the Police and Fire Service reinforce this message.

Individual liberty

At Victoria Junior School, pupils are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff at Victoria Junior School educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through esafety. Victoria Junior School has a robust anti-bullying culture and has in place a comprehensive range of policies that set out expectations and individual responsibilities in relation to Behaviour.

Mutual Respect

Respect is integral aspect of Victoria Junior School and is central to our Mission Statement & Values. Pupils learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and this is demonstrated through our teaching and learning environments. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for pupils to express their views in a safe environment with Victoria Junior School's ethos being one that values all pupils' views and respects the beliefs of all pupils. We have an active Pupil Leadership Team, who have helped to develop our curriculum to ensure that it is relevant to the needs of the pupils in our school.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

This is achieved though equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving the opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. Pupils benefit from a number of international visitors, including a large number of pupils from other countries and cultures. Additionally, pupils are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school and celebrate festivities throughout the calendar year. The Religious Education curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.