

Promotion of British Values

Introduction

The Promotion Of British Values

Background and Rationale

Though it has acquired a greater urgency in recent months, the importance of schools espousing British values is not new:

The 2008 National Curriculum includes the following statement:

The school curriculum should contribute to the development of pupils' sense of identity through knowledge and understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural heritages of Britain's diverse society and of the local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions of their lives

The 2011 Teachers' Standards state, as part of teachers' personal and professional conduct:

Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

These values support the national Prevent Strategy, put before Parliament in 2011 by the Home Secretary as a response to radicalisation of British citizens.

The Prevent Strategy recognises the importance of schools in counter-terrorism activities. More recently, concerns about the inappropriate actions of some schools were highlighted in the Birmingham Trojan Horse case, where a number of OFSTED inspections revealed a failure to promote British values adequately in some schools, meaning that young people in them were vulnerable to radical and extremist ideas. Consequently, all schools need a clear statement of British values and how they are promoted through the school's curriculum.

The DfE have recently reinforced the need '*to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to 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*'.



What is meant by “British Values”?

We believe that the following list exemplifies some of the values held by British citizens:

- Democracy
- Respect of the rule of law
- Appreciation of the rights of other citizens
- Individual liberty
- The promotion of opportunities for all
- Support for those who cannot, by themselves, sustain a dignified life-style
- Religious tolerance and respect for cultural diversity
- Treating others with fairness
- Participation in community life
- The contribution to, as well as the benefit from, cultural and economic resources

Although this list is not exhaustive, we believe it supports the attitudes and ethos of My life.

How does My life go about promoting these values?

At My Life Learning we believe that our vision statement,

'To promote a positive, supportive and secure learning environment where people can learn and develop a sense of value'

Explains our fundamental belief in many of these values. This statement is the foundation of all of our work with our learners.

British values are embodied in school in the following more specific ways:

- Giving the learners the right of choice
- Promoting good behaviour
- Community cohesion and inclusion
- Cultural visits
- Awareness of Religious Festivals
- Development of self-confidence and self-awareness