

CAMBRIAN

Nurturing Growth - Inspiring Minds



British Values Policy

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Buckland CE Primary School



This document applies to all academies and operations of Cambrian Learning Trust.

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Introduction

The Department for Education (DfE) published guidance in 2014 detailing that all schools have a duty 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.

The UK government first set out these values as part of their Prevent strategy in 2011 stating that “all schools are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life” and also notes that “schools can facilitate understanding of wider issues within the context of learning about the values on which our society is founded and our system of democratic government”.

What are British values?

Fundamental British values are defined as:

- **Democracy:** respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process
- **The rule of law:** respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- **Individual liberty:** support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- **Mutual respect for and tolerance:** equal opportunities for all and respect and tolerance of different faiths, religions and other beliefs.

Aims

At Buckland CE Primary School we aim to actively promote British values to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. We aim to make British values relevant to the daily life of children, linking these values to our school vision and values, and aspects of our curriculum.

British values are not taught as a separate subject but are interwoven into our values and our broad and balanced curriculum helping to foster children’s personal, social and cultural development. These values are reinforced at Buckland CE in the following ways:

Democracy

Each class creates and agrees a Class Charter as part of our whole-school Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) work. Through this process, children learn about their rights and how these support a respectful and inclusive community.

Classes also create and vote on their class motto for the year – a slogan that reflects their shared goals and helps guide their work and behaviour throughout the year.

Pupils have opportunities to contribute to school life through a range of pupil leadership groups, including Rights Respecting Schools and OPAL play leaders, as well as other groups linked to school improvement and pupil interests. Through these groups, children share ideas, develop leadership skills and play an active role in improving the school community.

Through our Rights Respecting Schools work, pupils develop an understanding of democracy, fairness and participation. Each year we take part in Parliament Week, providing opportunities for pupils to learn about the UK parliamentary system and how decisions are made. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 have also had the opportunity to visit Parliament.

A group of pupils also attend the annual Rights Respecting Schools conference at Blenheim Palace, where they work with other schools to explore one of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) articles in greater depth and bring their learning back to share with the wider school community.

Pupils also take part in fundraising events throughout the year, many of which are inspired by children's own interests and ideas. These activities help pupils understand how they can make a positive difference to others and contribute to causes that are important to them.

All classes take responsibility for maintaining their learning environments and shared spaces. This helps pupils develop a sense of responsibility and pride in their school.

When decisions need to be made, we encourage children to discuss different viewpoints and consider the arguments for and against possible options. Pupils understand that decision-making often involves compromise and respect for the views of others.

The Rule of Law

Our whole-school rules reflect our core values: Be wise, be responsible and be kind. These values are embedded throughout school life and underpin our Code of Conduct (Appendix 2), which is shared with families at the start of the year. Children read the code with their parents or carers, sign it and keep a copy at home.

Pupils are taught why rules are important and how they help to create a safe, fair and respectful school community. Through discussions, assemblies and daily practice, pupils develop an understanding that rules and laws apply to everyone and are necessary to protect individuals and maintain order. They learn about their own responsibilities and understand that actions have consequences when they go against our shared values.

Visits from the local police help reinforce pupils' understanding of the role that laws and public services play in keeping communities safe.

Pupils model positive behaviour and often encourage one another to make good choices. Playground helpers and our Year 5 Agents for Change support younger pupils and help to promote our values across the school.

The Zones of Regulation are used consistently throughout the school. Children learn to recognise and talk about their emotions and understand how feelings can influence behaviour. They are supported to develop strategies to regulate their emotions and make positive choices. This approach is closely linked to our Positive Relationships Policy.

Individual Liberty

Pupils are encouraged to develop independence as they progress through the school. As they grow older, they are given increasing opportunities to use their initiative and make informed choices about their learning and behaviour.

Children are taught how to keep themselves safe, both within the community and online. Regular teaching and discussion help pupils understand how to make safe choices and where to seek help if needed.

Daily school life promotes a sense of empowerment. Pupils are encouraged to share their views, express their feelings and contribute their ideas. Within lessons, children are often able to choose their level of challenge and take responsibility for their learning. They work with teachers to set both learning and personal targets each term, helping them to reflect on their progress and plan next steps.

Pupils are also able to make choices about their participation in after-school clubs and additional activities offered by the school.

Social events, educational visits, opportunities to work with other schools and residential trips further support pupils in developing independence, broadening their experiences and understanding the responsibilities that come with freedom of choice.

Mutual Respect & Tolerance

Mutual respect is central to our school values of being wise, responsible and kind. These values underpin daily life at our school and are consistently modelled by staff and expected from all pupils. Children understand that their behaviour affects both themselves and others and they are encouraged to treat everyone with kindness, courtesy and consideration.

Adults model respectful communication and positive relationships throughout the school day. Pupils are supported to develop empathy, understanding and respect for others through discussion, reflection and shared experiences.

Daily collective worship plays an important role in developing pupils' understanding of respect, tolerance and compassion. As a Church of England school, our values are rooted in Christian teaching and encourage pupils to care for others and appreciate different perspectives.

Buckland is situated in an area that is not highly culturally diverse; therefore, we place strong emphasis on helping pupils develop an understanding and appreciation of diversity. Our curriculum is organised around a two-year cycle of values-based themes, which promote respect for others and understanding of different beliefs and experiences:

Long Term	Year A Values	Year B Values
Term 1 / 2 (Autumn)	Peace and Unity	Respect and Courage
Term 3 / 4 (Spring)	Equality and Diversity	Hope and Belief
Term 5 / 6 (Summer)	Kindness and Forgiveness	Friendship and Responsibility

Collective worship regularly explores different cultures, traditions and world views, supported by a wide range of resources and imagery to broaden pupils' understanding of the wider world. We also provide opportunities for pupils to learn directly from others.

Visitors from different faiths and cultural backgrounds are invited into school to share their experiences, and pupils visit places of worship associated with different religions. Within our school community, pupils are encouraged to value the uniqueness of every individual.

We recognise and celebrate the diversity of family backgrounds and experiences, helping children understand that there is no single 'normal' way of life. The Jigsaw PSHE programme is taught from Nursery to Year 6 and supports pupils in developing respect, empathy and positive relationships through weekly discussion-based lessons and circle-time activities.

As a school, we regularly reflect on our practice and seek further opportunities to strengthen pupils' understanding of British Values, ensuring these are embedded throughout school life.

Other Policies

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Objectives