

# British Values Policy

**Signed:**

**Chair: S. Gribbin**

**Head: L. Jackson**

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### Statement of intent

Collective Vision Trust understands the importance of supporting pupils to develop the skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in, and contribute positively to, life in modern Britain.

This policy sets out the framework in which the school will ensure that it actively promotes the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy.
- The rule of law.
- Individual liberty.
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The Policy applies to the Collective Vision Trust and all the schools that belong to it.

These values are officially taught throughout the curriculum and especially within the RE and PSHE curriculum and are further nurtured through:

- The school's ethos
- Assemblies
- Extra-curricular activities
- Wider opportunities, eg educational visits and work experience
- School environment, eg displays and resources
- The promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding

## **Legal framework**

This policy takes into account the following legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the:

- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Ofsted (2022) School Inspection Handbook for September 2022
- DfE (2014) 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in school'

This policy operates alongside and complements other Trust and School policies.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

The Directors, through the local governing committees, are responsible for the overall implementation of this policy and for ensuring that the British values are upheld throughout the school and holding executive leaders to account for their performance regarding British values.

The headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.

The headteacher is responsible for disciplining staff who do not uphold British values, in line with the Trust's Disciplinary Policy.

Staff are responsible for modelling behaviour that respects and adheres to the fundamental British values, ensuring that pupils feel as though their views counts and supporting them to develop positive self-esteem. All staff will implement and enforce this policy.

Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values. They will also ensure that the teaching methods they use are designed to bolster pupils' self-esteem and that all pupils are given opportunity to speak and offer views. Lessons will ensure that discussions pull examples from and are respectful of a diverse array of cultures.

Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Behavioural Policy.

## **Aims and objectives**

Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our pupils have:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence.
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.

- An acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

### **Democracy**

Pupils will be taught, in an age-appropriate way, the advantages and disadvantages of democracy, as well as how democracy works in the UK.

Staff will ensure that pupils feel as though their views and opinions matter, and will be given opportunities to talk about their feelings, e.g. through pastoral support, and the RE and PSHE curriculums.

At our schools, pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard through pupil questionnaires, quizzes, discussions and the pupil-elected school council.

Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

### **The rule of law**

Collective Vision Trust has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect the school, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils will be taught these values and the reasons behind laws that are essential for their wellbeing and safety. The school will organise visits from authorities when appropriate in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.

Pupils will also be taught to understand the importance of their own behaviour, the impact that their behaviour has on others, and the consequences of their behaviour, through the implementation and enforcement of the school Behaviour Policy.

Pupils will be involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding. Pupils are allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.

The school understands the importance of promoting British values through a comprehensive and unprejudiced curriculum.

### **Individual liberty**

At our schools, a safe and supportive environment is fostered, where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.

Pupils are taught about their rights and personal freedoms, and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through teaching on e-safety and PSHE lessons.

## **Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

The school will ensure that respect for all individuals, regardless of their protected characteristics and/or backgrounds, is promoted throughout the school. Pupils will be taught about the importance of diversity in British society, and will learn about different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds throughout the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

Staff members will ensure that they always treat everyone, with respect, and will ensure that pupils learn to treat each other and all members of staff with respect as well.

This is reinforced through the school's Behaviour Policy which will sanction disrespectful behaviour and reinforce positive and respectful behaviour.

The school acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally-diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity.

Throughout the year, assemblies will be held focussing on bullying, with reference to prejudice-based bullying, and discussion with pupils will be encouraged.

The school will encourage pupils of all faiths and religions to share their knowledge and experiences with their peers, as freely as they feel comfortable to, to enhance their learning.

## **Challenging views that go against British values**

The schools openly challenge opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and pupils, that is at odds with British values.

The schools adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour. Any pupils displaying this behaviour will be disciplined in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Referrals of pupils that may be at risk of radicalisation will be made in accordance with the school's Safeguarding policy and Prevent Procedure.

## **Staff training**

At our schools, members of staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction and through additional training.

Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the British Values Policy.

## **Policy review**

This policy is kept under regular review by the CEO and amended as appropriate to reflect any changes to regulations.