




## British Values Policy

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3		
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### **Promotion of British Values**

At Meath School we recognise that our role is not limited to the gaining of knowledge and the acquiring of skills to allow pupils to achieve academically, but that it is also about the personal development of every student in its fullest sense and preparing them for their life as successful and responsible citizens. Part of our role in that preparation is ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values to our pupils.

The DFE have 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.”*

The Government set out its definition of British values in the Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated in 2015. At Meath, these values are reinforced in a pervasive manner and permeate the school community.

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the ways we seek to embed British values at Meath and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

#### **Democracy**

At Meath, we have a school council which currently meets with representatives from across the key stages and staff groups to ensure the democratic process is being employed for important decisions within the school community. The council provides pupils with an opportunity to see, firsthand, how the democratic process works.

#### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with limiting choices and consequence. Pupils are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws or rules are broken.

The school has a clearly structured Positive Behaviour policy which all stakeholders understand and follow.

We regularly review limiting choices and incidents in the school and share these with key stakeholders.

### **Individual Liberty**

As a school we educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through online safety and PSHE lessons and the UNICEF Rights Respecting schools award. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge or participation in extra-curricular opportunities or supporting fund raising events, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

### **Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Restorative Practices foster awareness of how others have been affected by inappropriate choices. This is done by actively engaging participants in a process which separates the deed from the doer and rejects the act not the actor, allowing participants to make amends for the harm caused. Restorative Practices acknowledges the intrinsic worth of the person and their potential contribution to the school community. Pupils learn that their choices and actions affect their own rights and those of others.

### **Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by actively promoting diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures as part of the special theme activities. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others.

At Meath, we will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values including 'extremist' views.