

Curriculum aspect overview

British Values

*Charlestown
2022-23*

What

Fundamental British Values underpin what it is to be a citizen in a modern and diverse Great Britain. According to Ofsted, 'Fundamental British values' comprise:

- **Democracy**- A culture built upon freedom and equality, where everyone is aware of their rights and responsibilities.
- **The rule of law**- The need for rules to make a happy, safe and secure environment to live and work.
- **Individual liberty**- Protection of your rights and the rights of others around you.
- **Mutual respect & tolerance of different faiths and beliefs**- Understanding that we all don't share the same beliefs and values. Respecting those values, ideas and beliefs of others whilst not imposing our own onto them.

Each value is mirrored in the principles and practices at Charlestown. Our curriculum will equip learners with the skills and knowledge to become fully rounded contributors to society who are prepared for life in modern Britain.

Why

We see British Values as underpinning what it is to be a citizen in a modern and diverse Britain. They allow us to create environments free from discrimination, intolerance and hate. They help us to challenge prejudice and stereotyping, whilst strengthening relationships within the community.

This is particularly pertinent to our context as a proportion of our children have been international new arrivals to the UK during their lifetime. It is therefore important that whilst ensuring that they stay true to their roots and value their cultural heritage, they also learn how to become an active member of society in Britain.

These values are important in ensuring an effectively functioning society, they however are not uniquely British.

How

We believe that the best way to promote British values in our school is to lead by example. We aim to embody democracy in the way we work and within the ethos and culture of Charlestown.

Our children learn about British history at an age-appropriate level and spans many centuries of British achievements.

A core element of our curriculum is encouraging our children to keep up to date with current affairs. Our children regularly watch an episode of 'Newsround' in class which prompts discussion of the events, the choices made by individuals and the subsequent consequences. Opportunities such as this encourage open discussion of controversial topics allowing children to reflect on how our moral compass and values influence and guide how we feel and react to different events.

The rule of Law:

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws daily. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, community or the country, they are put in place to help us live and work in a happy, safe and secure environment. In PSHE lessons we discuss the consequences if laws or rules were not in place. Opportunities such as these, allow the children to discover that laws are set for good reasons and must be adhered to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Democracy:

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen actively to others to ensure we are respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard.

We value the opinions and interests of our learners and regularly use pupil voice to inform our planning. We have a School council which has two representatives from each year group. Each year the new Parliament is elected by their peers. Members meet regularly to discuss issues raised by their fellow classmates and decide on ways to improve our school with a particular interest in environmental issues and sustainability.

Individual liberty:

At Charlestown choices and freedoms are encouraged and valued.

Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our PSHE and e-safety lessons.

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs through class discussion. In R.E we explore the idea of free will and the fact that although we have a choice it is important that we consider how our actions may impact other people. Engaging learners in activities such as this we aim to develop responsible and caring members of society who will be able to reflect on their experiences in school and use them to help make informed choices.

Tolerance and respect

We prepare our children to become respectful members of the culturally diverse Britain of today by equipping them with a breadth of knowledge through experiences and encourage not only tolerance but the celebration of our differences.

During R.E sessions, children are encouraged to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values. We believe to truly respect someone's religion you should try to see things from their point of view which is why in key stage 2 we begin to encourage learners to consider and compare how people with different beliefs may respond to the same situation.

Impact

Charlestown's approach to British Values ensures that:

- Children understand the value of democracy and how to participate in it.
- Children value and understand the rule of law, abiding by it at all times.
- Children are able to express and explore their individual liberty safely, recognising when this is being compromised.
- Children respect others and understand the value of a diverse community.
- Children are equipped to be active citizens who seek to contribute positively to society.
- Children are confident and willing to share their talents with others.