

Whitwell Primary School



British Values Statement

The Governing Board of Whitwell Primary School adopted

This statement on **15th May 2025**

Signed _____

In support of the Department for Education (DfE) document: *Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools, Departmental advice for maintained schools, November 2014.*

Here at Whitwell Primary School, we value the diversity of the backgrounds of all pupils, families and the wider school community and strongly believe in upholding British values through all aspects of our school provision.

The DfE states that there is a 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”.

Our school reflects British values in all that we do. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world and the wider world.

What is meant by British values?

Learning about British values forms a key part of children’s spiritual, moral, cultural and social education. The five British values that the Government has identified for schools to focus on are:

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

How should we help our children prepare for adult life as citizens of Britain?

- Develop their self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Develop their understanding of right and wrong, and their respect for the law.
- Encourage them to take responsibility for their behaviour.
- Encourage involvement in the community and wider society.
- Encourage respect for the public services and institutions of Britain.
- Promote tolerance of and respect for all cultures and faiths.
- Encourage participation in the democratic process.

We uphold the British value of the Rule of Law by:

We involve children in setting codes of behaviour; helping children to make decisions and choices that are acceptable to the school community and society at large. Children are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. Staff are committed to providing a consistent and predictable environment within the school and beyond. We can help many children to understand the connection between actions and consequences. This type of environment enables children to feel safe and secure; this in turn, promotes the optimum conditions for learning to take place.

We uphold the British Value of Mutual Respect by:

Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect. Within school, children work with a range of people and interactions with others are always positively promoted. This may include working with external coaches, theatre groups etc. The curriculum is personalised and planned for children and may include transitioning within the range of resources and places on the

site and going into the community to meet with a range of people in a variety of situations which include community events and shared participation with other schools. We believe it is important to facilitate opportunities to be part of the community as the children, families and staff have much to offer in the development of community cohesion.

We uphold the British Value of Democracy by:

The ability to understand and communicate are the most important areas of learning. We ensure that children are given a 'voice' to communicate. We empower our children by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each 'voice' and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty. We have an active School Council.

We uphold the British value of individual liberty by:

Children are encouraged to become good and valued citizens. We do this by supporting each child to become as independent as possible. We endeavour to demonstrate that everyone has rights. Many of our children will be able to take responsibility for particular roles and to understand that with certain rights comes certain responsibilities. Learning to do things independently is an important part of learning to understand yourself. We support others by participating in charitable events such as Red Nose Day, Comic Relief and Children in Need. We believe that promoting a caring and helpful environment and being independent can boost and nurture a healthy self-esteem.

We uphold the British value of tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs:

Whitwell is situated in an area which is not greatly culturally diverse, therefore we are keen on promoting diversity with the children. Assemblies are planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce this.

We are part of a school and local community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all children's experiences and awareness of others. For example, children have visited many local places. As a school, we take part in sporting activities which helps to instil 'fair play' and engender a 'team spirit'.

We also support pupils to develop personal and social responsibility by:

- expecting children to demonstrate responsibility in many ways in school, e.g. Y6 ambassadors, Y5 Smilers and lay leadership roles.
- encouraging children to have responsibility for their own possessions, behaviour and work, both at school and at home and to always do their personal best in all aspects of school life.
- teaching children about courageous advocacy and encouraging them to be involved in or lead activities for social or environmental change.

We also respect British Institutions by:

- celebrating many British festivals and special events, e.g. Diwali, Remembrance Day, Christmas, Easter, World Book Day, Children in Need, etc.
- regularly inviting representatives from various groups, such as Police, charities and the local church to visit our school and talk to the children in both lessons and assemblies.

In all our provision, both academic and otherwise, we endeavour for our school community to develop an understanding of British values and a strong desire to uphold them both now and as future British citizens.

The staff work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that the children at Whitwell Primary are happy, well cared for and enabled to learn the skills they need to live a fulfilling life as part of their community.

This statement has been agreed by:

- The Governing Board
- Teaching and support staff
- The School Council

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Review date: May 2026