

British values statement

Revised: April 2024

To be reviewed: April 2027

The Pioneer Academy is committed to actively promoting British values to ensure our pupils leave us fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

The government emphasises that all schools should ensure that they teach pupils about British values. We take every opportunity to promote the fundamental British values of:

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

Through the promotion of these values, our schools aim to ensure pupils:

- Understand the democratic process and how citizens can have a say in decision making.
- Recognise the advantages of living under the rule of law and how law is essential for a safe society.
- Understand that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary and why it exists.
- Understand the reasons for accountability of institutions and why courts maintain independence.
- Know why freedom of religion protects all faiths, as well as those with no faith.
- Accept that people who hold different religious beliefs should be tolerated and not discriminated against.
- Value the importance of identifying and combatting extremism.

We promote British values both within and beyond the classroom and these values are at the heart of our ethos. Here are just some of the ways our schools seek to embed the teaching of British values.

Democracy

Our school is a democracy for all its stake holders. All staff have a voice and most importantly so do the children. The voices of children are heard through our School Council and Pupil questionnaires. Election week is a big week in all of our schools! We research speeches, make speeches, create campaign teams and then hit the campaign trail. The week culminates in voting for the whole school. Elections for School Council representatives are also undertaken- these happen in each class. Children are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where children are safe to disagree with each other. All staff have an open door policy to share their views and opinions. Our large support and inclusion teams ensure that this can happen.

The Rule of Law

Rules are important in our school and we all have shared responsibility for them. Whether they be class rules, school rules, or rules/laws of the world they are consistently reinforced. An understanding of rules and the importance of them is part of our ethos. We refer to them daily as well as in specific school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws; it is important for us that all children realise the value of them to keep us safe. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; local counsellors and local community support officers are regular parts of our schools lives and help reinforce our high expectations of behaviour both inside and outside of school.

Individual Liberty

Our pupils are actively encouraged to take risks and make choices. They do this knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment where it is ok to make mistakes. As a school we provide boundaries for young pupils to enable them to make choices safely, they are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms. We do this through our E-Safety lessons, PSHCE sessions and through our curriculum. Challenge and choice are key parts of all our lessons, we encourage pupils and staff to 'take a risk' in their learning in a safe, managed environment. We also offer numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices at every step of their school lives with us, knowing that our schools are safe places to explore individual choice and liberty.

Mutual Respect

Everything we do revolves around our personal goals. These personal goals permeate our lessons, our behaviour policy and the whole ethos of the school. The seven personal goals are: Respect, Adaptability, Thoughtfulness, Morality, Enquiry, Resilience, Co-operation and Communication. We believe these to be key to building up mature and responsible young people. They are referred to in all lessons and displayed around the school. The children are constantly reminded of what these key goals and values look like through our behaviour policy, our assemblies and our PSHCE programme. The school promotes respect for others, both children, parents and staff. At every level this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy but more importantly it is part of the key values of our academy.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

We live in a culturally diverse society. One that we want to embrace in all our academies. We believe that children should have a clear understanding of their place in this culturally diverse society and should be given opportunities to experience diversity. We work closely with members of different faiths and religions who share their knowledge to enhance learning and acceptance within our schools. We follow an agreed syllabus and regularly go on trips to various places of worship. In addition to this our RE, PSHCE and IPC lessons all foster an ethos of acceptance, of working with others and of respecting others opinions despite our own situations or beliefs.

Whilst actively promoting British Values we will also ensure that our academies are challenging pupils, staff or parents if expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.