



British Values Statement

UNCRC Article 2: The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background. UNCRC Article 3: The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

UNCRC Article 13: Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

UNCRC Article 14: Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

UNCRC Article 17: Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

UNCRC 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

The definition of British Values was set out by the government in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and added to Ofsted inspection guidance in July 2014: *'To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.'*

The Department for Education (2011) 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." The Prevent Strategy was published by The Department for Education in June 2015 and this reinforced the need 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values'. These values include:

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

At West Moors Middle School, we are committed to serving the community, local area and beyond. In so doing, we reinforce British Values in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democratic values are an explicit part of the ethos at West Moors Middle and are embedded at the school. All adults listen to children's views and value their opinions. Children have further opportunity to have their voices heard through the School Council and Rights Respecting School Council as well as regular questionnaires. The election of the School Council members are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. In addition, the children engage in debates and take part in mock elections so they learn how to argue and defend points of view.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout our school day, through our school assemblies and also when dealing with behaviour in school. We encourage our children to understand the difference between right and wrong and help children to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals. Our children are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. During the academic year, we arrange visits from for example, the Police and Fire Service etc. to help reinforce our messages. We teach our children to use Jigsaw's 'Solve It' technique to help resolve minor conflicts in the playground during break and lunch times. In addition, our restorative justice approach helps us to resolve conflicts and encourage children to take responsibility for the consequences of their actions.

Individual Liberty:

Within school, children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We support children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Our children are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. All children are keen and are encouraged to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others through the Religious Education curriculum and PSHCE Jigsaw lessons in particular. In addition, the teaching E-safety enables them to make choices in a safe manner. In doing so, our children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and PSHCE Jigsaw lessons. We implement a strong anti-bullying culture and pride ourselves on being a Telling school.

Mutual Respect:

At the heart of our whole school's vision and values, we emphasise the importance of children having respect and care for themselves, each other, their local community and beyond to enable them to live fulfilled, happy and successful lives within the communities to which they belong. Themes from assembly and tutor times are chosen to underpin the need for mutual respect between our children and their peers, staff, their families and their wider community. Our Values are taught through assemblies and PSHCE Jigsaw sessions and form a key part of our daily dialogue across school.

Being a Rights Respecting School, respect is promoted across school every day and underpins work in our school community, being deeply embedded in all that we do. The children know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. Our school frequently participates in learning activities which promote mutual respect and has included, for example, visits to: local first schools, a residential care home for the elderly and community events. In addition to these activities, our children are given regular opportunities to learn in their community and beyond, each time an emphasis is placed on respecting those with whom they come into contact and their surroundings. In addition, a wide range of extra-curricular clubs are offered at West Moors Middle School, providing another opportunity for mutual respect to be secured in the attitudes of our children, both amongst those participating from their own setting, and any visiting staff or teams.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

Children are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through the Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, ability, age, religious belief, or political conviction. Our core value of Respect ensures tolerance of those who have different faiths and beliefs. West Moors Middle School enhances children's understanding of different faiths and beliefs through our Religious Education curriculum, Jigsaw PSHCE curriculum, themed events during the academic year and the daily life of the school. The similarities and differences between ourselves, our pyramid schools and beyond have given us the chance to reflect on celebrating variety and identity. Through this, our children gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society.

When children leave West Moors Middle School they will:

- be aware of their responsibilities as citizens of a democratic society;
- have an awareness of how they can maintain the underpinning core British values;
- maintain an awareness and respect for the culturally diverse society in which they live.