

Promoting British Values



RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL
'EXCELLENCE FOR ALL'



Ratified by Governors: 6th February 2018
To be reviewed: February 2019



Riverside Bridge School
PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

Review Frequency: Annually

Date of ratification: February 2018

Date next review due: February 2019

Scope of Values: These Values apply to all staff, students, governors and volunteers at Riverside Bridge School

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INTRODUCTION

Background and Rationale

Though it has acquired a greater urgency in recent months, the importance of schools espousing British values is not new. The 2008 National Curriculum includes the following statement:

The school curriculum should contribute to the development of pupils' sense of identity through knowledge and understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural heritages of Britain's diverse society and of the local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions of their lives

The 2011 Teachers' Standards state, as part of teachers' personal and professional conduct:

Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

These values support the national Prevent Strategy, put before Parliament in 2011 by the Home Secretary as a response to radicalisation of British citizens.

The Prevent Strategy recognises the importance of schools in counter-terrorism activities. More recently, concerns about the inappropriate actions of some schools were highlighted in the Birmingham Trojan Horse case, where a number of OFSTED inspections revealed a failure to promote British values adequately in some schools, meaning that young people in them were vulnerable to radical and extremist ideas. Consequently, all schools need a clear statement of British values and how they are promoted through the school's curriculum.

What is meant by “British Values”?

We believe that the following list exemplifies some of the values held dear by British citizens:

- Democracy
- Respect for the rule of law
- Appreciation for the rights of other citizens
- Individual liberty
- The promotion of opportunities for all
- Support for those who cannot, by themselves, sustain a dignified lifestyle
- Religious tolerance and respect for cultural diversity
- Treating others with fairness
- Participation with community life
- The contribution to, as well as the benefit from, cultural and economic resources

Although this list is not exhaustive, we believe it encapsulates the attitudes and values that Riverside Bridge School seeks to instil in its staff and young people.

How does Riverside Bridge School go about promoting these values?

We believe that statements and information about our objectives and work are published on the school's website and make explicit our fundamental belief in many of these values. This statement is the foundation of all our work with our students and staff.

British values are embodied in the following more specific ways:

- Through the published curriculum and schemes of work
- An understanding of democracy and rule making via pupil and student councils
- Religious education
- School assemblies and Acts of Collective Worship
- Charity fund raising
- Behaviour and physical intervention policies
- Our attitudes and respect towards each other
- The diversity of our pupil's, their families and the staff
- The tolerance of beliefs and traditions of all those in the school and wider community
- The promotion of rules, the law and to share the difference between the law of the land and religious law and expectations
- The challenge to those who do not uphold British values in their attitudes and behaviour towards each other or those who work at the school
- The importance that we place on the transitions process and our willingness to advocate on behalf of families and the pupils when required

- Our commitment to making sure that everyone in the school has access to the same levels of opportunity
- Our emphasis on promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- By promoting respect for public institutions including the school and local government
- By our recruitment and retention practices
- By the work and values of the school's Governing Body
- By upholding the rights and dignity of the pupil's at all times and implementing our duty of care in all matters.