

Statement of British Values for Curzon CE Combined School's website

The government set out its definition of 'British Values' in its 2011 Prevent Strategy and since September 2014, the DfE now places an expectation on schools to promote these fundamental 'British Values'.

As a Church of England school, we uphold our Christian distinctiveness and the Christian values which underpin our ethos and determine everything we do. Our Christian values – embodied in the "Curzon Code" (Competence, Courtesy, Co-operation, Consideration, Confidence and Respect) – provide the secure foundation for the government's 'British values' of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Many of these values are shared by people from different traditions in a diverse British culture. The values of the "Curzon Code" are displayed in each classroom where they are illustrated through Bible verses. They are also referred to in assembly, in class and when considering any pupil behaviour which falls below the school's usual high expectations.

At Curzon, British values are also secured and complemented by the seriousness with which we take our equality duties. These permeate all that the school does, being reflected in relevant policies, planning and decisions and being the subject of specific governor and staff training.

Some examples of how the promotion of British Values is core to life at Curzon are:

Democracy

Pupils learn about the practice of democracy from the outset of their time at Curzon through voting for class representatives to sit on the School Council and to act as ECO Warriors; voting to appoint year 6 pupils as house captains; or voting to decide which charities to support. As to the theory of democracy, within the curriculum (particularly in PHSCE) there are opportunities to learn about the role of democracy, for example, in choosing a government.

Rule of law

Pupils at Curzon learn about the operation of the rule of law in practice through our Behaviour Policy. This sets out our high expectations of pupil behaviour and explains how positive reinforcement is used to maintain standards and how unacceptable behaviour is dealt with. At the start of each school year, parents and pupils sign up to our home-school agreement. Separate Codes of Conduct set out our expectations for pupils, including at after-school clubs and on educational visits, as well as for staff and governors. As to the theory of the rule of law pupils are taught that adhering to school rules is vital at Curzon, for the safety and enjoyment of all, and to create an environment in which all pupils can learn and flourish.

Individual liberty

Curzon values the individuality of all pupils. We pride ourselves in how we develop our pupils' social skills to become future good citizens. We do not tolerate bullying and harassment of any kind. We aim to reflect the culturally diverse nature of our local, national and global community and society and ensure that the education we offer fosters positive attitudes to and respect for all people. Our curriculum is inclusive and one of our three drivers that is shaping the way we are teaching the new National Curriculum at Curzon is that of "diversity". We have reviewed and upgraded our library books to ensure inclusiveness. One of our aims is to encourage our pupils to think for themselves, take initiative and risks, thereby developing their self-confidence; our recent growth mind set initiative is helping pupils achieve this. At Curzon, we celebrate historic events that upheld individual liberty, such as the Armistice.

Mutual respect

Courtesy, Co-operation, Consideration and Respect are four of the six elements of our "Curzon Code". Showing respect at Curzon ranges from putting one's hand up in class to speak and listening to what others have to say, to respecting our environment, and everything in between.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

At Curzon, we don't wish to merely "tolerate" those with different faiths and beliefs; instead we seek to positively embrace them. We proactively encourage parents of other faiths and cultures to visit our school and share their beliefs and backgrounds, and thus we regularly welcome visitors of Sikh, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faiths and traveller backgrounds to talk to our pupils, share their music or their food, whilst our pupils have visited a local mosque and Sikh temple. For some years now, Curzon has been fostering links with a school very diverse to ours. Our pupils exchange letters and DVDs with pupils from Kirongo School, in Kenya, and fundraise to buy them essential supplies in the support of both school and local community projects. Each year, our "country week" allows pupils to learn about a culture different from our own.

Our Outstanding SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) judgement in 2018 and our Good Ofsted judgement in 2017 are testimony of our support of British Values and of the way we prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern Britain.