

British Values Statement

Our Commitment to British Values at Cotteridge

At Cotteridge, we are committed to actively promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These values are defined by the DfE and form part of our provision for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our pupils.

We take a holistic approach wherever possible. Many of the British values aren't easily taught – they come from the culture of the school and need to be lived through our ethos and values. While it's good practice to look for ways to include British values in our curriculum, we take a holistic approach wherever possible, rather than just focusing on individual subjects.

Our British values statement reflects our commitment to preparing pupils to be respectful, responsible citizens who understand their rights and responsibilities in modern Britain.

What British Values mean for children at each key stage.

EYFS and Key Stage 1 (Ages 3-7)

At Key Stage 1, we introduce British values through age-appropriate experiences that help children understand fairness, kindness and respect:

Democracy

- Children learn to take turns and share
- They participate in simple voting activities (e.g., choosing a story or game)
- They begin to understand that everyone's voice matters
- They learn that we can make choices together as a class

The Rule of Law

- Children understand that we have rules to keep everyone safe and happy
- They learn about classroom rules and why we follow them
- They begin to recognise the difference between right and wrong
- They understand that rules apply to everyone, including adults

Individual Liberty

- Children learn that they can make choices about their learning and play

- They understand that they have the right to feel safe
- They begin to recognise their own preferences and interests
- They learn that it's okay to be different

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

- Children learn to be kind to others and treat everyone fairly
- They celebrate differences in their class and families
- They learn about different celebrations and traditions
- They understand that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness, regardless of differences

Key Stage 2 (Ages 7-11)

At Key Stage 2, we deepen children's understanding of British values and help them apply these in more complex situations:

Democracy

- Pupils participate in school council elections and understand the voting process
- They engage in class debates and learn to respect different viewpoints
- They understand how decisions are made democratically in school
- They learn about local and national democracy in an age-appropriate way
- They participate in pupil voice activities and surveys

The Rule of Law

- Pupils understand why laws exist and how they protect us
- They learn about consequences and taking responsibility for their actions
- They understand the role of the police and other authorities
- They analyse events in UK and world history where British values have been tested, such as both world wars
- They understand that laws apply equally to everyone

Individual Liberty

- Pupils make informed choices about their learning and behaviour
- They understand their rights and freedoms (e.g., freedom of speech, freedom of belief)
- They learn to exercise their rights safely and responsibly, including online
- They develop confidence to express their views respectfully
- They understand that with freedom comes responsibility

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

- Pupils learn about different faiths, cultures and beliefs in depth
- They challenge stereotypes and discrimination
- They understand the protected characteristics under the Equality Act
- They learn to disagree respectfully and consider different perspectives
- They celebrate diversity within their school and wider community
- They understand that bullying or disrespectful behaviour is never acceptable