



BRITISH VALUES

September 2023

Date for Review: September 2024

Signed: *aCBenbow*

Ratified by Chair of Governors Date 04/10/2023.....

Statement of Intent

The James Montgomery Academy Trust (JMAT) recognises its responsibility in promoting the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. In doing this they can also show that they are 'actively promoting fundamental British Values.'

At the heart of these values, lie good relationships in which teachers and pupils work together towards common goals. British values are integral to our school vision and ethos and are reinforced regularly.

Legal framework

- This policy takes into account the following legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the:
- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
- Ofsted (2015) School Inspection Handbook
- DfE (2014) Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the school's:

- Anti-Radicalisation Policy
- Behavioural Policy

Definition

The British Values are defined as:

- Democracy
- The rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Roles and responsibilities

The Head of School/headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.

Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values. Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Behavioural Policy.

Aims and objectives

Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our pupils have:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence.
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.

- An acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Democracy

At JMAT schools, pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard through pupil questionnaires and the pupil-elected school council.

Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future. Our pupils are supported to debate and defend a point of view and our pupils are encouraged to understand the value of teamwork.

The Rule of Law

The JMAT schools help pupils to distinguish between right and wrong and to support children in taking responsibility for their own actions. The JMAT schools will ensure that rules are fair and expectations are consistent. JMAT schools will provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services. Teaching staff will help pupils to understand that living with rules and laws helps to keep us safe and protect us.

Individual Liberty

At JMAT schools, a safe and supportive environment is fostered, where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.

Pupils are taught about their rights and personal freedoms, and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through teaching on e-safety and PSHE lessons. Pupils are supported to develop their self-esteem, self-knowledge and self-confidence. Teaching staff will ensure that pupils understand their own rights and responsibilities. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour.

Mutual Respect

Respect forms a core pillar of the JMAT ethos. Pupils are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and all members of staff with respect. Pupils are supported to work co-operatively with one another and respect one another's opinions and views. Pupils are supported to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures ways of life.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The JMAT acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally-diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity. The school encourages its pupils from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge with their peers to enhance their learning. Teaching staff will teach pupils to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour in order to promote respect, understanding and acceptance of individual differences and a diverse society.

Embedding British Values across the Curriculum

British Values are developed across the curriculum in all classes and through a variety of whole school activities such as:

- Positive relationships with adults in school or wider community e.g. Police/Fire
- Pupil Voice contributing to decisions
- Collective Worship

- Student Council
- Whole School Assembly
- Display in classrooms/corridors/hall
- Participating in community events
- Behaviour policy

Challenging views at odds with British values

The JMAT openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and pupils that is at odds with British values.

Staff training

JMAT members of staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction. Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the British Values Policy where applicable.