



**Victorious**  
Academies Trust

*Success in education*

British Values Policy	
Policy Ref:	Gen 007
Status	
Purpose	
Committees	Achievement and Improvement Sub Committee
Other linked policies	
Issue date:	October 2020
Review Date	July 2021

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### Statement of intent

Victorious Academies Trust and our schools will ensure that we actively promote the fundamental British values of:

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

These values are officially taught through the RE and PSHE curriculum, and are further nurtured through the school's ethos and promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding.

**Individual schools across the Trust will develop their own British Values Policy / procedures taking accounts of the principles included within this policy.**

### Legal framework

1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Equality Act 2010
  - Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
  - Ofsted (2018) 'School inspection handbook'
2. This policy operates in conjunction with the following Trust and school policies:
  - Prevent Policy
  - Behavioural Policy
  - Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
  - Equal Opportunities Policy
  - Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
  - Prevent Duty Policy

### Roles and responsibilities:

3. The **Trust board** require the **local governing boards** to implementation the principles of this policy and for ensuring that the British values are upheld throughout their schools.



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4. The **Headteachers/Principals** 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.
5. The **Headteachers/Principals** are responsible for disciplining staff who do not uphold British values, in line with the Trust **Disciplinary Policy and Procedure**.
6. Teachers and support staff across the schools will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.
7. Pupils across the schools are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with each school's Behavioural Policy.

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## Aims and objectives

8. Through each school's policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our pupils across the schools 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

9. Pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard across the schools, including through:
  - Pupil questionnaires
  - The school council
10. Pupils across the schools are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

## The rule of law

11. The Trust has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect the schools across the Trust, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. At each school all pupils are involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding.
12. Across our school's pupils are taught these values and the reasons behind laws, whether they govern the class, the school or the country, that are essential for their wellbeing and safety. Pupils



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are allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.

13. Schools within the Trust organise visits from authorities throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.

14. Schools within the Trust understand the importance of promoting British values through a comprehensive and unprejudiced curriculum.

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### Individual liberty

15. A safe and supportive environment is fostered throughout our schools, 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.

16. At Trust school's 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.

### Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

17. Respect forms a core pillar of the Trust and school's ethos. Pupils are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and all members of staff with respect.

18. This is reinforced at each school through their **Behavioural Policy** and posters throughout the school promoting mutual respect.

19. Each school 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.

20. Throughout the year, assemblies are held across the schools focussing on bullying, with reference to prejudice-based bullying, and discussion is encouraged.

21. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs at each school is supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum.

22. Each school encourages its pupils from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge with their peers to enhance their learning.

### Challenging views that go against British values

23. Trust schools openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and pupils, that go against British values.

24. Each school adopts a zero-tolerance approach towards discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour. Any pupils displaying this behaviour will be disciplined in line with the schools **Behavioural Policy**.



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25. Referrals regarding pupils that may be at risk of radicalisation will be made in accordance with each school's **Prevent Duty Policy**.

### Staff training

26. At each school members of staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction and through additional training.
27. At Trust schools staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the values in this policy.

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### Monitoring and review

28. The **Trust Board** will review this policy **annually**, ensuring that all procedures are up-to-date.
29. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.