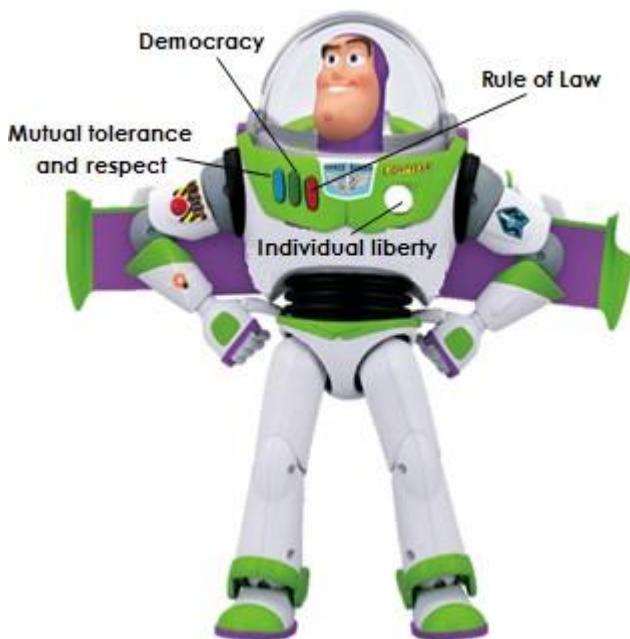


## British Values at Polegate

'All schools have a duty to 'actively promote' 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 were first set out by the government in the 'Prevent' strategy in 2011'.



At Polegate School, we have always promoted British values and they are at the heart of all we do. These are clearly reflected in our ethos, '**Learning without limits**' which ensures every child succeeds and exceeds expectations. All staff strive for children to have a thirst for learning and to see the world through enquiring minds with these values rooted within this.

When planning, teachers make reference to relevant British Value(s) in all aspects of the curriculum alongside areas of SMSC. Subject leaders ensure British values are evident in their subject through close monitoring throughout the school year. Through weaving values throughout the curriculum, we hope that life skills and values will then become embedded within children's conscience so that the skills they learn are put into practise; they understand what is right from wrong and have the ability to adapt to different and fresh situations to prepare them to live in a cohesive society.

We do understand and recognise that these values are not solely exclusive to Britain and are integral to many countries throughout the democratic world and ensure children also appreciate this.

Additionally, links to British Values are explicitly made in the school's PSHE Jigsaw Scheme of Work. This scheme is broken down into 6 topics or 'puzzles' that are taught at the same time throughout the whole school, these are:

Term 1: Being Me In My World

Term 2: Celebrating Difference

Term 3: Dreams and Goals

Term 4: Healthy Me

Term 5: Relationships

Term 6: Changing Me

**Definitions of values as created by our school council:**

**British values definitions:**

**Democracy:** Everyone has a chance to have their say and share their opinions

**Rule of law:** Having respect for rules and understanding that if rules are broken there will be a consequence for your actions

**Individual liberty:** Free to be yourself

**Mutual respect and tolerance:** Treating people how you would like to be treated and understanding that everyone has their own beliefs and are different in their own unique way

Below are examples of how these values are promoted and embedded at our school.

**Democracy:**

- Through school council, children are actively involved in the running of the school and are elected through a democratic process in their classrooms using prepared presentations and ballot boxes. They understand how they have impact and say in the running of the school
- Weekly topical debates are held to encourage children to listen to others views before casting votes 'for' or 'against'. This provides pupils with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view.
- Pupil voice questionnaires are used to develop the curriculum as part of our subject leader monitoring
- Parent and children views are valued and appreciated when developing new whole school approaches and evaluating the effectiveness of what is in place already using questionnaires and 'Think Tank' meetings
- We have organised visits to the local council and Parliament
- During national and local elections, we hold our own mock elections and discuss what it means to lead and represent a political party and how different voting systems work.
- We teach through mixed ability groupings. Children are aware that pupils have different strengths and challenges and know they contribute to the progress of each other through co-operatively working with their 'learning buddies'; aspiring to exceed and 'learn without limits'.

**Individual liberty:**

- At Polegate, children are active learners often choosing how to show their learning
  - Children are taught the importance of rights and responsibilities
  - Extensive range of extra-curricular activities
  - Pupil voice are carried out regularly through questionnaires and school council. Children know that their opinions are valued and see how the school acts upon their views.
- Children are prepared for life in society as responsible citizens, to manage their money well and make sound financial decisions with structured enterprise opportunities from reception to year 6.
- Careers related learning is embedded across the curriculum inspiring all through an understanding of the many careers available to them

**Rule of law:**

- Statutory and non-statutory policies are embedded across the school
- The school rules- ready, responsible and respectful, are known by the entire school community and displayed around the environment
- Jigsaw charter is used by all classes to remind the rules of PSHE and appreciating other people's views and feelings
- Our behaviour policy enables children to have many opportunities to make the right choice and take responsibility for their actions.
- There are many opportunities around the school to create and follow rules playground games, computer acceptable use agreement, and sports clubs.
- Opportunities to meet local councillors with visits to Polegate council and parliament
- Visits from Police
- School council projects such as 'Polegate Parking Patrol'

**Mutual respect and tolerance:**

- Our school rules encourage respect for each other and our learning environment.
- We have high expectations of learning behaviours which promotes respect and understanding of each other
- Our PSHE Jigsaw scheme of work curriculum includes topics on 'friendship' and what it means to be a good friend. We talk about relationships and our place within the family, the community and society.
- The school adheres to statutory frameworks such as its Single Equality Policy, Equality Objectives, SEN Policy and Accessibility Policy.
- Our behaviour and anti-bullying policies make it explicit to children that inappropriate behaviour or treatment of others due to differences is not acceptable.
- Black history is celebrated with enrichment opportunities such as African drumming workshops
  - We recognise different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures
- RW curriculum teaches children a range of different faiths and beliefs