

Fields Multi Academy Trust



British Values Statement

Adopted: December 2016
Agreed by Trust Board: December 2016
Reviewed: November 2022
To be Reviewed: November 2023

“Fields Multi Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and always promoting the welfare of children and adults and expects everybody working with us to share this commitment.”

Fields Multi Academy Trust British Values Statement

Fields Multi Academy Trust is required under section 78 of the Education Act 2002 to promote the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of our children. As of November 2014, academies also need to promote fundamental British values as part of the academy curriculum.

We are committed to serving our communities. We recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the UK. We also understand the vital role we have in ensuring that groups or individuals within the trust are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

Our Trust follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We are dedicated to preparing our children for their adult life, ensuring that our schools promote and reinforce British values to all our children.

The DfE has suggested that children are taught about fundamental British values during their spiritual, moral and cultural (SMSC) lessons. Children are expected to display knowledge of the fundamental aspects of British values. The government has outlined their expectations, stating that children should:

- Understand the democratic process and how citizens can have a say in decision making.
- Recognise the advantages to living under the rule of law and how law is essential for a safe society.
- See that there is a separation of power and why it exists.
- Understand the reasons for accountability of institutions and why courts maintain independence.
- Know why freedom of religion protects all faiths, as well as those with no faith.
- Accept that people who hold different religious beliefs should be tolerated and not be discriminated against.
- Value the importance of identifying and combatting extremism.

Our schools do not have to promote or teach any particular belief, view or way of life that contradicts our outlook or ethos; however, we will not promote discrimination, or accept intolerance against people or groups, on the basis of their belief, opinion or background across our Trust.

Democracy - The principle of democracy is consistently reinforced across our schools, with the democratic process being adopted for important decisions within each school, for instance, elections being held for School Council. The principles of democracy are explored in class and whole school assemblies. Governors also talk regularly to children to establish their views as a way of ensuring that their school self-evaluation is robust and accurate, and therefore effective in moving the school forward.

The rule of law - We believe it is important for children to understand why rules are in place, the purpose that they serve, and the consequences of breaking them. We are keen to promote environments where children are able to clearly distinguish between right and wrong; and do the right thing because they *want* to, not simply because they feel compelled to. We also promote the understanding of the relationship between cause and effect and the importance of taking responsibility for their own actions, which is vital to becoming a productive and upstanding member of society.

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Our schools' rights/rules, rewards and sanctions are displayed in all classrooms, referred to regularly and consistently upheld are a practical example of this.

Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual freedom - We encourage children to become good, valued and successful citizens. Our schools do this by supporting each child to become as independent as possible by actively encouraging them to make decisions and choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for children to take risks and make choices safely. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms, how to exercise these safely, for example through E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual respect - Mutual respect is at the heart of everything we do at our schools. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect.

Children are encouraged to communicate openly and honestly, and to listen to – and respect – the views of others, even in instances where disagreements arise.

We use assemblies to highlight the diverse nature of British society and the right for each person to be respected for their choices. Children are taught that they should never judge a person, and are encouraged to become compassionate, open-minded and accepting.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs – Our schools prepare children for a multi-faith Britain where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all children's experiences and awareness of others. Assemblies help all children to find out about themselves and others, linking their lives to the communities in which they belong. Themes cover areas such as: friendships, helping others and celebrations from a range of faiths and world events.

In our schools we believe that tolerance of different faiths and beliefs are best gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum as well as the routines of daily life at every school, we strive to not only learn about but also to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.

At Fields Multi Academy Trust we will actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including those expressing 'extremist' views.

Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

Our schools believe and actively support the view that all children should be protected from radicalisation and extremism. Our Trust is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our children. We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

- Children are encouraged to adopt and live out the key “British Values” of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.
- Children are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through Jigsaw (our PSHE programme), assemblies and through the elected School Council members
- Children are taught how to keep themselves safe in school and when using the internet.
- Children participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background.
- Children’s wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and extra-curricular learning opportunities.
- Children are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.