

IRIS School British Values Policy

Effective Date: Sep 2025

Review Date: Sep 2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the commitment of IRIS School to promoting fundamental British values in our educational environment. We aim to foster a culture of respect, tolerance, and democratic engagement among our students and staff.

2. Definition of British Values

The fundamental British values as defined by the Department for Education are:

- **Democracy:** The importance of democratic processes, including involvement in decision-making and respecting multiple viewpoints.
- **Rule of Law:** Understanding the laws that govern society and promoting respect for the law and the justice system.
- **Individual Liberty:** Encouraging freedom of speech, personal freedoms, and the exercise of individual rights, balanced with respect for others.
- **Mutual Respect and Tolerance:** Promoting respect for different beliefs, cultures, and opinions, and encouraging a spirit of harmony and understanding.

3. Policy Statement

At IRIS School, we value diversity and are dedicated to nurturing an inclusive environment where students feel safe and supported to express themselves. We recognize that promoting British values is integral to preparing our students for life in modern Britain and equipping them with the skills necessary to contribute positively to their communities.

4. Implementation

The following strategies will be employed to promote British values throughout the school:

- **Curriculum Integration:** British values will be embedded across the curriculum. Lessons will be designed to encourage critical thinking around issues of democracy, law, liberty, respect, and tolerance.
- **School Assemblies:** Regular assemblies will focus on themes related to British values, featuring discussions, guest speakers, and activities that reinforce these principles.
- **Student Leadership:** The school will encourage student leadership opportunities, such as a Student Council, where students can participate in democratic processes and express their views.
- **Classroom Environment:** Teachers will foster a classroom environment where open discussions about values are welcomed and encouraged. Ground rules for respectful interactions will be established.

- **Community Engagement:** The school will engage with the local community through projects, initiatives, and events that celebrate diversity and promote understanding of different cultures.
- **Anti-Bullying Policy:** The school will maintain a robust anti-bullying policy that promotes mutual respect. Students will be encouraged to report any instances of bullying or discrimination.
- **Staff Training:** All staff members will receive training on British values to ensure that they are equipped to model these principles and address any issues that may arise.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored through:

- Regular feedback from students, staff, and parents.
- Analysis of student engagement in democratic processes and community activities.
- Annual reviews of this policy to incorporate best practices and feedback received.

6. Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural Development) Policy

7. Conclusion

IRIS School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment that promotes British values. By doing so, we aim to develop responsible, well-rounded citizens who are prepared to contribute positively to society.

Review and Approval

This policy will be reviewed annually by the school management team and approved by the governing body.
