

Busy Governance Guide to Promoting British Values

Schools should 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. This can help schools to demonstrate how they are meeting the requirements of section 78 of the Education Act 2002, in their provision of SMSC.

What are maintained schools required to do? Teachers are required to promote British values in class, taking care to cover the key themes of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different beliefs. Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values. Attempts to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values would be completely at odds with schools' duty to provide SMSC. The Teachers' Standards expect teachers to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school. This includes not undermining fundamental British values. The advice for [maintained schools](#) can be found by following the link.

What about Academies? The trust's culture must actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. Information on promoting fundamental British values is available in the [independent school standards guidance](#).

How could this be achieved? Schools could:

- Include in suitable parts of the curriculum, as appropriate for the age of pupils, material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how democracy works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries
- Ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to, for example by having democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils
- Use opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections whereby pupils can learn how to argue and defend points of view
- Use teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths
- consider the role of extra-curricular activity, including any run directly by pupils, in promoting fundamental British values.

Questions for Governors: Do pupils have a good appreciation and understanding of the democratic process; the rule of law; the separation of executive power and freedom of belief? Are pupils tolerant of other beliefs and views contrary to their own and able to identify and combat discrimination? It is not necessary for schools or individuals to 'promote' teachings, beliefs or opinions that conflict with their own, but nor is it acceptable for schools to promote discrimination against people or groups on the basis of their belief, opinion or background.

What will Ofsted ask? The latest [Ofsted Inspection Framework](#) states that inspectors will consider how well the provider develops pupils' acceptance of and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. They will develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.