



The Henrietta Barnett School

Promoting British Values Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with other School policies (all available on the School website), particularly the Preventing Radicalisation & Extremism Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development Policy, PSHE Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, Safer Recruitment Policy, Allegations of Abuse Against Staff, Whistleblowing, Behaviour Policy, Suspension and Exclusion Policy, Anti-Corruption & Bribery Policy, Online Safety, Computer Acceptable Use and First Aid & Administering Medicines policies.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (February 2015) places a statutory duty on schools to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following legislation and national guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), DfE 2024; Working Together to Safeguard Children, DfE 2023; The Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015 (updated 2021), 'Prevent Duty Guidance: for England & Wales', HM Government 2023; Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools, DfE 2014; Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners, DfE 2024.

Background

The DfE requires all schools to promote the historical and current values that underpin the national identity known as being British. All schools are required to ensure that the curriculum actively promotes these fundamental British values.

The Independent School Standards, which are regulatory requirements for academies state that schools must: "encourage pupils to respect the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs".

At Henrietta Barnett (the School) we value and respect the diverse and varied nature of our British society and of our school. We are a multi-cultural community within which we celebrate students and cultures from all over the world. Alongside this we support all students in learning about and deepening their understanding of British values, culture and systems.

What are British Values

British Values are defined by the DfE as:

- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

How we promote British Values at School

We teach British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, both within and outside the classroom, as detailed below.

Democracy

- Democracy is an important value at our school and is practised in all manner of ways, including elections for form representatives, many opportunities for student leadership, lots of opportunity for

student voice (e.g. contributing to appointments, school representatives in each year group, Student Council meetings, involvement in department reviews and other surveys and reviews, students presenting and leading assemblies, students running activities and inviting speakers in). It is also practised in extra curricular activities such as regular debating events, teams competing in Model United Nations, mock elections, involvement in the Youth Parliament etc, We believe that the voice of everyone should be heard.

- Within PSHCE, Democracy is explicitly covered in a module in Year 10, with content on global democracy comparisons, Parliament, human rights, and race and religious discrimination. It is also relevant to lessons on law and morality in Year 11. In Years 8 and 11 in particular, lessons address current threats to democracy through teaching about misinformation, disinformation and fake news.
- A level Politics includes lessons on both national and international Politics, and there are regular trips to the House of Commons.
- Students are encouraged to be aware of injustice and ways in which this can be challenged, both in local situations and in the wider world. A lot of charity and community work takes place.

The Rule of Law

- Within PSHCE, lessons on extremism and radicalisation and law and morality are delivered in Year 11. The topic is also addressed in lessons in Year 10 on democracy, human rights and race and religious discrimination. Students are taught the value of, and reasons behind, rules: that they govern and protect us; the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when rules are broken. They are also given a broad knowledge of, and respect for, public institutions and services in England, an understanding of 'right' and 'wrong' and respect for civil and criminal law.
- Lessons in all subjects encourage discussion and debate, acceptance of different viewpoints and mutual respect.
- British history is taught in lessons. This includes local history: for example, there is a unit on the local history of Hampstead Garden Suburb, including details about Dame Henrietta Barnett, social reformer and founder of the School.

Individual Liberty

- Students are encouraged to make choices for themselves at school knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We believe that students should be empowered through the development of their self-esteem, self-knowledge and self-confidence.
- Our students are able to show independence in learning and are encouraged to think for themselves, as well as to take responsibility for their own behaviour.
- Students are able to exercise their rights, personal freedoms and responsibilities and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example, through our online safety teaching/assemblies.
- Students are encouraged to challenge stereotypes and promote individuality at every opportunity.
- Gender equality is emphasised and famous British women and men celebrated (e.g. in lessons, assemblies, etc.).
- A diverse speaker programme, both within the curriculum or as part of the extra-curricular offering, exposes students to a wide range of backgrounds and beliefs.
- Within PSHCE, lessons on online safety are delivered to students in Year 7 to 11, with a different age-appropriate focus each year. Lessons on democracy for Year 10 address the features of political systems which demonstrate respect for liberty. Lessons in Year 7 on identity and in Year 8 on 'sense of self' encourage individuality and emphasise equality in race, gender and sexuality.

Mutual Respect

- Mutual respect is at the heart of our values and is promoted through assemblies, tutorials, within teaching and other ways around the school, including an emphasis on kindness, compassion, tolerance and respect.
- All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect, with class discussions and conversations reinforcing mutual respect at every level.
- Discussions about differences between people including ethnicity, gender, sexuality, faith, family settings, backgrounds and morals ensures that students can understand these different elements within society – both within our school community and in British society today.

- Within PSHCE, lessons on friendship and communicating with kindness in Year 7, managing conflict in Year 8, relationships in Year 9 and consent and sexual relationships in Years 10 and 11 are all predicated on the importance of mutual respect within all relationships.

Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs

- The diverse and multi-cultural nature of the school, including those with different faiths and beliefs, and those with none, is highly valued. It is a very harmonious community with mutual respect and tolerance at the heart of all we do.
- Religious Studies lessons focus on different faiths and beliefs and promote tolerance and mutual respect and regular School events such as Cultural Diversity Week reinforces these principles.
- Within PSHCE, lessons on identity in Year 7, celebrating difference in Year 8 and workshops on race and religious discrimination in Year 10 underscore the School's ethos of celebrating diversity and mutual tolerance and respect.

Review & Update: This policy will be reviewed annually. It was updated in May 2025.