

Deyes High School



British Values Statement

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British Values Statement

'Deyes Values are British Values'



Preamble

Though a new strategy to be promoted through schools under new policies, the background to the need for British values as part of the whole-school community and, more specifically, within the remit of SMSC within the school environment is well documented:

- The 2008 National Curriculum includes the following statement:

The school curriculum should contribute to the development of pupils' sense of identity through knowledge and understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural heritages of Britain's diverse society and of the local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions of their lives

- The 2014 DfE document Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools states:

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.

- The 2011 Teachers' Standards state, as part of teachers' personal and professional conduct:

Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

These values support the national Prevent Strategy, put before Parliament in 2011 by the Home Secretary as a response to radicalisation of British citizens.

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The Prevent Strategy recognises the importance of schools in counter-terrorism activities. More recently, concerns about the inappropriate actions of some schools were highlighted in the Birmingham Trojan Horse case, where a number of OFSTED inspections revealed a failure to promote British values adequately in some schools, meaning that young people in them were vulnerable to radical and extremist ideas. Consequently, all schools now need a clear statement of British values and how they are promoted through the school’s curriculum.

What is meant by ‘British Values’?

We believe that the following list exemplifies some of the values held dear by British citizens:

- Development of self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Distinguishing right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- Acceptance and responsibility for behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- Understand of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- Tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- Encourage respect for other people;
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Although this list is not exhaustive, we believe it encapsulates the attitudes of Deyes High School students and the values that we as a community hold dear.

When discussing British values with students, they commented on the core values, which we promote, and their relation to British values. They felt that our values mirrored those values above by promoting:

- Positive contributions to the community
- Respect and responsibility
- Self-esteem, self-knowledge and self-confidence
- A fair and tolerant community
- The school helps students by making them young leaders

They also commented on what they believe contributed to being a British citizen in a modern British school and society:

- We must accept each other and have our voices heard.
- British people always work through difficult situations, no matter how tough, as should students.
- We are accepting of diversity and are a strong community.
- Everyone has their own set of values which they deem important, despite their country or religion. Our values reflect these.
- British values cannot simply be defined by a set of words – they are much more.
- Fairness and Equality should be clear above all.
- Respect is key to positive relationships.
- Be proud and patriotic, of who and where we are, whatever that might be.

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- Participate and represent within your community.
- We are considerate of others and encourage each other.

How does Deyes High School promote British values?

At Deyes High School we believe that our statement of vision and our core values make our aims and vision of what we stand for transparent.

British values are embodied in the following more specific ways:

- Our school's motto is *"To excel in all that we do so that everyone flourishes and achieves their full potential"*. The idea of diversity, tolerance and working together are key to British values, as they are within our school.
- All students are regularly spoken to about the importance of these attributes for success in school. These are discussed through assemblies, form time and 'Thought for the Day'.
- 'Thought for the Day' offers the students the time at the start of the day, in form time, to discuss and reflect upon key topics throughout the year, as well as whole school initiatives and core values.
- All our students study RE from Year 7. The majority of students take the subject as a GCSE.
- Students participate in a one-hour lesson per fortnight of PSHE from Years 7-11. These lessons are taught by form tutors, to build on strong, existing bonds.
- The PSHE curriculum has a large emphasis on citizenship through each of Years 7-11 and this contains the following directly relevant elements:
 - What does it mean to be British/Speeches for Change (Year7)
 - Local Government/Changing my community (Year 8)
 - Young people and the law/The NHS (Year 9)
 - Fairtrade/Climate change (Year 10)
 - Freedom of speech/Defending our Civil liberties (Year 11)
- Assemblies, held once every week, are led by Heads of Year, a senior member of staff, Leader of SMSC, or occasionally feature an external speaker. The themes often reflect those of the core values, PSHE lessons, or key national and international dates.
- The school council, 'Future Focus', and other specified focus groups promote a sense of leadership and democracy, showing clear parallels with British values and society.
- There are a number of programmes that promote the idea of leadership within the school community.
- The school supports local, national and international charities.

Our Core Values

Our core values are intrinsically linked to all that the school does. The values highlight that which is seen as good practice as a member of our school community, but is also clearly visible as the qualities expected of a citizen of the wider British community.

'We are fair and honest with each other, earning and building trust by taking responsibility for our actions'

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We require that the school environment is fair and just. Through acting thus we build positive relationships with others in our community. We intend to inspire students to act in a fair and just manner, celebrating their achievements and taking responsibility for their actions where it is needed.

'We are kind and forgiving as we work together, each contributing and committed to our community'

Our sense of community and pride therein should inform all our actions. We should inspire a kind and forgiving nature in all students. All should be encouraged to contribute towards the community, in whatever way they can.

'We value and respect everyone as we work with enthusiasm to achieve success'

Each student is valued, with mutual respect for all encouraged within the school community. The sense of value that all should feel will encourage an enthusiasm for learning and thirst to achieve success.

The core values can be seen around the school. The messages, with the values, are clearly seen in assemblies, thought for the day moments, PSHE and SRE lessons, as well as through the lessons and daily life within the school. Through this we hope that the core values become part of our daily life and linked to all that we do. The core values aim to develop wholesome, moral and proactive future British citizens.

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
SMSC	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education
DfE	Department for Education
PSHE	Personal Social and Health Education
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
RE	Religious Education
SRE	Sex and Relationship Education

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