

British Values

Following a consultation on 'British Values' in June 2014 by the Dept for Education, Ofsted have now introduced reference to 'British Values' in the Common Inspection Framework (Ofsted fact sheet 150065) which will be introduced in September 2015. At inspection, under the criteria of 'Leadership and Management', the inspector will make a judgement on aspects of the early years setting such as; self-assessment, safeguarding arrangements, professional development, promotion of diversity, narrowing the gap in achievement, and from Sept 2015, inspectors will also make a judgement on how the early years setting "actively promotes British Values".

The fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs are already implicitly embedded in the 2014 Early Years Foundation Stage. However the EYFS is likely to be amended to reference providers' responsibilities in the light of the Prevent Duty, which is part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act. The Prevent Duty says that early years providers should have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism" The government sets out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, the values of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. To help demonstrate what this means in practice, the Foundation years came up with the following examples based on what is in the statutory guidance. They are just that – examples - and not exhaustive, but hopefully useful to you.

Democracy: making decisions together

As part of the focus on self-confidence and self-awareness as cited in Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- Managers and staff can encourage children to see their role in the bigger picture, encouraging children to know their views count, value each other's views and values and talk about their feelings, for example when they do or do not need help. When appropriate demonstrate democracy in action, for example, children sharing views on what the theme of their role play area could be with a show of hands.
- Staff can support the decisions that children make and provide activities that involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration. Children should be given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.
- Rule of law: understanding rules matter as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development As part of the focus on managing feelings and behaviour.
- Staff can ensure that children understand their own and others' behaviour and its consequences, and learn to distinguish right from wrong.

- Staff can collaborate with children to create the rules and the codes of behaviour, for example, to agree the rules about tidying up and ensure that all children understand rules apply to everyone.

Individual liberty: freedom for all

As part of the focus on self-confidence & self-awareness and people & communities as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development and Understanding the World:

- Children should develop a positive sense of themselves. Staff can provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities, for example through allowing children to take risks on an obstacle course, mixing colours, talking about their experiences and learning.
- Staff should encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions, for example in a small group discuss what they feel about transferring into Reception Class.
- Mutual respect and tolerance: treat others as you want to be treated

As part of the focus on people & communities, managing feelings & behaviour and making relationships as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development and Understanding the World:

- Managers should create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued and children are engaged with the wider community.
- Children should acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures; know about similarities and differences between themselves and others and among families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences.
- Staff should encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions.
- Staffs should promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping.
- A minimum approach, for example having notices on the walls or multifaith books on the shelves will fall short of 'actively promoting'.

What is not acceptable is:

- Actively promoting intolerance of other faiths, cultures and races.
- Failure to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregate girls and boys
- Isolating children from their wider community
- Failure to challenge behaviours (whether of staff, children or parents) that are not in line with the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

If you would like to do some work around moral development, you could select 'a right', as the basis for children's discussion.



Take a look at the UNCRC 'articles' or children's rights explained simply. See the poster <http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/uncrcchildfriendlylanguage.pdf> and the book 'For Every Child' by Unicef. More books which reflect values and will stimulate discussion.

- 'The Gruffalo',
- 'The Rainbow Fish'
- 'Giraffes can't dance'
- 'The tiger who wanted to love'
- 'The family where rich people live'
- 'Piggybook'. Statutory guidance on the prevent duty is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>September 2022</i>	<i>Emilia Olkowska</i>	<i>September 2023</i>