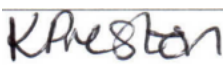


Policy/Procedure Name:	BRITISH VALUES POLICY		
Last Update:	July 2025	Next Update Due:	July 2028

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This POLICY outlines the key British values we actively promote at Willow Park School.

General overview

At Willow Park School, we are committed to promoting the fundamental British values of **Democracy, The Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect, and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**. These values are embedded across our **play-based, sensory-rich, and relationship-driven curriculum**, and are delivered in ways that are **developmentally appropriate, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of our learners**.

We recognise that our pupils may not access these concepts in abstract terms. Instead, we provide **real-life, meaningful experiences** that help them to:

- Make choices and express preferences
- Understand routines, boundaries, and fairness
- Build trusting relationships and show empathy
- Celebrate diversity and difference
- Participate in their community with confidence and respect

British Values are not taught in isolation—they are **woven throughout our curriculum pathways**:

- **Curious (Pre-Formal)**: through sensory play, co-regulation, and early communication
- **Engaged (Informal)**: through intentional interaction, emotional regulation, and community routines
- **Flourishing (Semi-Formal)**: through structured learning, reflection, and real-life experiences

Our staff model these values consistently, and pupils are supported to explore them through:

- The **SCERTS Framework** and **Willow Park Roadmap**
- Themed learning experiences (e.g. *Shops, Castles, Transport*)
- Assemblies, circle time, and community visits
- Visual supports, AAC tools, and social stories

We see British Values as underpinning what it is to be a citizen in a modern and diverse Britain. They allow us to create environments free from discrimination, intolerance and hate. They help us to challenge prejudice and stereotyping, whilst strengthening relationships within the community. British Values are defined as the following:



➤ **Democracy**

A culture built upon freedom and equality, where everyone is aware of their rights and responsibilities.

➤ **Individual liberty**

Protection of your rights and the rights of others around you.

➤ **The rule of law**

The need for rules to make a happy, safe and secure environment to live and work.

➤ **Mutual respect & tolerance of different faiths and beliefs**

Understanding that we all don't share the same beliefs and values. Respecting those values, ideas and beliefs of others whilst not imposing our own onto them.

Democracy

To understand how they can influence decision making through a democratic process.

We promote the value of democracy by supporting pupils to **make choices, express preferences, and have their voices heard** in ways that are meaningful and accessible to them. We recognise that for many of our learners, democratic participation begins with **early autonomy, turn-taking, and shared decision-making**.

We support pupils to:

- Make choices using AAC, visuals, gestures, or verbal communication
- Participate in group decisions (e.g. choosing songs, books, or activities)
- Experience turn-taking and fairness in play and routines
- Understand that their voice matters and will be listened to
- Develop confidence in expressing preferences and opinions

Democracy is embedded through:

- The **Curious Pathway**, where pupils begin to express preferences and respond to choices
- The **Engaged Pathway**, where pupils explore shared decision-making and group participation
- The **Flourishing Pathway**, where pupils engage in structured activities that promote fairness, voting, and collaboration
- Use of **Now and Next boards, choice-making visuals, and group voting activities**
- The **Willow Park Roadmap**, which tracks progress in initiation, persistence, and communication

By valuing every pupil's voice—however it is expressed—we model and reinforce the principles of democracy in a way that is developmentally appropriate and inclusive.

Individual Liberty

To understand that the freedom to choose is protected in law.

We promote individual liberty by supporting pupils to **make choices, express themselves, and develop autonomy** in a safe, structured, and nurturing environment. We recognise that for many of our learners, liberty begins with the ability to **communicate preferences, explore interests, and develop a sense of self**.

We support pupils to:



- Make choices using AAC, visuals, gestures, or verbal communication
- Express preferences in play, routines, and learning activities
- Explore their interests and develop confidence in their identity
- Understand their rights to safety, privacy, and respect
- Begin to recognise and manage their own emotions and behaviours

Individual liberty is embedded through:

- The **Curious Pathway**, where pupils are supported to explore and express preferences through sensory play and responsive routines
- The **Engaged Pathway**, where pupils develop intentional communication and begin to make independent choices
- The **Flourishing Pathway**, where pupils are encouraged to take initiative, make decisions, and reflect on their actions
- Use of **visual timetables**, **Now and Next boards**, and **choice-making tools**
- The **SCERTS Framework**, which supports emotional regulation and self-expression
- The **Willow Park Roadmap**, which tracks progress in autonomy, initiation, and independence

We empower pupils to experience freedom within a safe and supportive structure, helping them to build the confidence and skills to make informed, respectful choices.

The Rule of Law

To appreciate that living under the rule of law protects us and is essential for our well being and safety.

We promote the rule of law by helping pupils understand the importance of **routines, boundaries, fairness, and shared expectations**. We recognise that for many of our learners, the concept of law begins with **predictability, consistency, and trust** in the adults and environments around them.

We support pupils to:

- Understand and follow daily routines and classroom expectations
- Learn about fairness, turn-taking, and consequences
- Recognise safe and unsafe behaviours
- Begin to understand that rules help keep everyone safe and happy
- Experience consistency and structure that builds trust and emotional security

The rule of law is embedded through:

- The **Curious Pathway**, where pupils experience consistent routines and co-regulation
- The **Engaged Pathway**, where pupils begin to understand shared rules and expectations through play and group activities
- The **Flourishing Pathway**, where pupils explore fairness, responsibility, and consequences through structured learning and role play
- Use of **visual timetables**, **Now and Next boards**, and **social stories** to support understanding of rules and transitions
- Visits from **community services** (e.g. police, fire, ambulance) to reinforce the role of law in keeping people safe



- The **Willow Park Roadmap**, which tracks progress in persistence, anticipation, and emotional regulation

We help pupils experience the rule of law not just as a concept, but as a **lived experience of safety, fairness, and mutual respect**.

Mutual Respect

To understand that while people may hold different views, we may show respect towards them.

At Willow Park, mutual respect is at the heart of our school ethos. We support pupils to **recognise and value others**, to **build positive relationships**, and to **engage in shared experiences** with kindness and empathy. We understand that for many of our learners, respect is learned through **modelling, repetition, and co-regulation**.

We support pupils to:

- Recognise and respond to others' communication, emotions, and needs
- Participate in shared routines, play, and group activities
- Develop empathy and awareness of difference
- Understand that everyone has the right to feel safe, heard, and valued
- Celebrate their own identity while respecting others'

Mutual respect is embedded through:

- The **Curious Pathway**, where pupils begin to build trust and tolerance through sensory play and adult modelling
- The **Engaged Pathway**, where pupils develop social interaction and emotional regulation through play and routines
- The **Flourishing Pathway**, where pupils explore relationships, diversity, and community roles through structured learning
- The **SCERTS Framework**, which supports respectful communication and emotional awareness
- The **Willow Park Roadmap**, which tracks progress in co-operation, shared attention, and emotional regulation
- Themed learning experiences such as “*The Zoo*”, “*Mini-Beasts*”, and “*Celebrations*”, which promote inclusion and shared values

We model and reinforce mutual respect in every interaction, helping pupils to build the foundations for **positive, inclusive relationships** in school and beyond.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

To accept that others have different faiths or beliefs (or none) and these should be accepted and tolerated.

We promote tolerance by helping pupils to **recognise, respect, and celebrate difference**. We understand that for many of our learners, tolerance is developed through **exposure to diversity, positive modelling, and inclusive experiences** that are meaningful and accessible.

We support pupils to:

- Explore similarities and differences in people, families, and communities
- Engage with stories, music, food, and festivals from a range of cultures and faiths



- Develop curiosity and acceptance through sensory-rich, real-life experiences
- Recognise that everyone is unique and valued
- Begin to understand that people may have different beliefs, customs, or ways of life

Tolerance is embedded through:

- The **Curious Pathway**, where pupils experience diversity through sensory play, music, and adult modelling
- The **Engaged Pathway**, where pupils explore difference through themed learning, community visits, and shared routines
- The **Flourishing Pathway**, where pupils engage in structured learning about cultures, beliefs, and global citizenship
- Themed curriculum topics such as “Celebrations”, “The Zoo”, “Mini-Beasts”, and “Under the Sea”, which promote inclusion and cultural awareness
- Participation in **cultural and religious festivals**, including Diwali, Eid, Christmas, Chinese New Year, and World Kindness Day
- The **SCERTS Framework** and **Willow Park Roadmap**, which support respectful interaction and emotional understanding

We help pupils experience tolerance not as a concept, but as a **daily practice of kindness, curiosity, and inclusion**.

Equality Statement

At Willow Park School, we actively seek to encourage equity and equality through our teaching and our employment practices. As such, we seek to advance the equality of opportunity between people who share any of the following characteristics:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- being married or in a civil partnership
- being pregnant or on maternity leave
- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

The use of stereotypes under any of the above headings will always be challenged.

Inclusion

Our school is an inclusive school. We aim to make all pupils feel included in all our activities. We try to make all our teaching fully inclusive. We recognise the entitlement of all pupils to a balanced, broadly-based curriculum. We have systems in place for early identification of barriers to their



learning and participation so that they can engage in school activities with all other pupils. We acknowledge the need for high expectations for and of all children.