

# **Ryhope Infant School Academy**

## **British Values Policy**

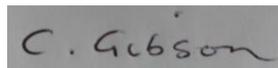
**Updated:** February 2026

**Produced by:** Mrs T Allen

**Headteacher**

**Ratified by:** Governing Body

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C. Gibson'. The signature is written on a light grey rectangular background.

**Chair of Trustees**

**Review Date:** January 2027

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## **Statement of intent**

The DfE have reinforced the need 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to 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 government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated in 2014.

This policy sets out the framework in which Ryhope Infant School Academy will ensure that it actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

These values are officially taught through the Religious Education (RE) and Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum and are further nurtured through the school's ethos and promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding.

## **1. Legal framework**

1.1. This policy will have consideration for the following guidance:

- Ofsted, School Inspection Handbook, 2025.
- DfE, Improving the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils.

1.2. This policy is carried out in conjunction with our following other policies:

- Mission Statement
- Community Cohesion
- Staff Behaviour Policy
- Behaviour Policy

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

2.1. Ryhope Infant School Academy understands the importance of promoting British values through a comprehensive and unprejudiced curriculum.

2.2. The Headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.

2.3. Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.

2.4. Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

## **3. Democracy**

3.1. At Ryhope Infant School Academy pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard through pupil questionnaires and the pupil-elected school council.

3.2. Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

## **4. The rule of law**

4.1. Ryhope Infant School Academy has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Our pupils are involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding.

4.2. At Ryhope Infant School Academy pupils are taught these values and the reasons behind laws, whether they govern the class, the school or the country, that are essential for their well-being and safety. Pupils are allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.

4.3. Ryhope Infant School Academy organises visits from authorities throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.

## **5. Individual liberty**

- 5.1. At Ryhope Infant School Academy we foster a safe and supportive environment where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.
- 5.2. Pupils are taught about their rights and personal freedoms and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through our teaching on e-safety and PSHE lessons.

## **6. Mutual respect**

- 6.1. Respect forms a core pillar of Ryhope Infant School Academy's ethos. Pupils are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and staff with respect.
- 6.2. This is reinforced through our Behaviour Policy and posters throughout the school promoting mutual respect.

## **7. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

- 7.1. Ryhope Infant School Academy acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity.
- 7.2. Throughout the year, assemblies are held focusing on bullying, with reference to prejudice based bullying, and discussion is encouraged.
- 7.3. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum.
- 7.4. We encourage our pupils from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge with their peers to enhance their learning.

## **8. Staff training**

- 8.1. At Ryhope Infant School Academy staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their thorough the induction programme.
- 8.2. Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the British Values Policy as appropriate.

## **9. Review**

- 9.1. This policy will be kept under regular review by the SLT and amended as appropriate to reflect any changes to regulations.