

British Values Statement

Frequency of Review:	Every 2 years
Date of Approval:	October 2018
Date of Next Review:	December 2024
Adopted by the Board of Empower Trust	

Date of Review:	November 2020	No changes to Policy
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Date of Review:		
Date of Review:		

Empower Trust British Values Statement

Empower Trust is required under section 78 of the Education Act 2002 to promote the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of students. As of November 2014, academies also need promote fundamental British values as part of the academy curriculum.

Empower Trust is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the UK. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the trust are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. Empower Trust is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

The DfE has suggested that students are taught about fundamental British values during their spiritual, moral and cultural (SMSC) classes. Students are expected to display knowledge of the fundamental aspects of British values. The government has outlined their expectations, stating that students should:

- Understand the democratic process and how citizens can have a say in decision making.
- Recognise the advantages to living under the rule of law and how law is essential for a safe society.
- See that there is a separation of power and why it exists.
- Understand the reasons for accountability of institutions and why courts maintain independence.
- Know why freedom of religion protects all faiths, as well as those with no faith.
- Accept that people who hold different religious beliefs should be tolerated and not be discriminated against.
- Value the importance of identifying and combatting extremism.
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Empower Trust does not have to promote or teach any particular belief, view or way of life that contradicts our outlook or ethos; however, we will not promote discrimination, or accept intolerance against people or groups, on the basis of their belief, opinion or background across our organisation.

Democracy - The principle of democracy is consistently reinforced across our academies, with the democratic process being employed for important decisions within each academy community, for instance, elections being held for School Council, Class Charters and annual questionnaires. The principles of democracy are explored in class and whole school assemblies. Governors also talk regularly to children to establish their views as a way of ensuring that school self-evaluation is robust and accurate, and therefore effective in moving the school forward.

The rule of law - We believe it is important for children to understand why rules are in place, the purpose that they serve, and the consequences of breaking them. We are keen to promote environments where children are able to clearly distinguish between right and wrong; and do the right thing because they *want* to, not simply because they feel compelled to. We also promote the understanding of the relationship between cause and effect and the importance of taking responsibility for their own actions, which is vital to becoming a productive and upstanding member of society.

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the academy, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Our academies rules, rewards and sanctions which are displayed in all classrooms, referred to regularly and consistently upheld are a practical example of this.

Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual freedom - We encourage children to become good, valued and successful citizens. Our academies do this by supporting each child to become as independent as possible by actively encouraging them to make decisions and choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for young children to take risks and make choices safely. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms, how to exercise these safely, for example through E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual respect - Mutual respect is at the heart of everything we do at our academies. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect.

Children are encouraged to communicate openly and honestly, and to listen to – and respect – the views of others, even in instances where disagreements arise.

We use assemblies to highlight the diverse nature of British society and the right for each person to be respected for their choices. Children are taught that they should never judge a person, and encourage them to become compassionate, open-minded and accepting.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs – Our academies prepare children for a multi-faith Britain where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all children's experiences and awareness of others. Assemblies help all children to find out about themselves and others, linking their lives to the communities in which they belong. The themes cover areas such as: friendships, helping others and celebrations from a range of faiths and world events.

In our academies we believe that tolerance of different faiths and beliefs are best gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum as well as the routines of daily life at every academy, we strive to not only learn about but also to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.

At Empower Trust we will actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including those expressing 'extremist' views.

Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

Our academies believe and actively support the view that all children should be protected from radicalisation and extremism. Empower Trust is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children. We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

- Children are encouraged to adopt and live out the key "British Values" of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.

- Children are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through the SEAL (Social, emotional aspects of learning) assemblies and through the elected School Council members
- Children are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet.
- Children participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background.
- Children's wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and extra curricular learning opportunities.
- Children are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others

