



Symphony Learning
TRUST

British Values Policy 2018-2021

Adopted by Symphony Learning Trust on	Spring 2018
Next Review Due	Spring 2021

Symphony Learning Trust – British Values Policy

In 2011, The Government set out its definition of British values in the Prevent Strategy, and these values were further reiterated in 2014.

The DfE have further 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.”

Across the schools of the Symphony Learning Trust, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

The Schools of the Symphony Learning Trust are UNICEF Rights Respecting schools. Each year the children decide upon their class charter/rules and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the charter/rules.

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have school councils which meet regularly to discuss issues raised in class. Council members for each year group are voted in by their class.

Children have an annual questionnaire with which they are able to put forward their views about their school.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Within our schools, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through choice of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

As Rights Respecting Schools in the Trust, mutual respect is at the heart of our values. 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.

Tolerance – of those of different faiths and beliefs

The schools in the Symphony Learning Trust are situated in Leicestershire which benefits from a rich cultural diversity. We place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. Assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

Where this diversity does not exist within the school community (as is the case in a minority of Leicestershire Towns, such as Shepshed) specific efforts are made to develop cultural links and opportunities for pupils to learn about tolerance.

Equality Statement

Across the Symphony Learning Trust, we actively seek to encourage equity and equality through our teaching. As such, we seek to advance the equality of opportunity between people who share any of the following characteristics:

- gender;
- ethnicity;
- disability;
- religion or belief;
- sexual orientation;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy or maternity.

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

Inclusion

Through **Aspiration**, **Innovation** and **Excellence**, The Symphony Learning Trust schools are inclusive schools. We aim to make all pupils feel included in all of our activities by making 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 all children.