



Our Ref: RDE/KON

April 2026

ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/ Carers

Re: British Values and Diversity

We hope that you and your family have enjoyed a wonderful Easter holiday and your child has come back refreshed and ready to start the new term. We also hope that your child enjoyed the end of term festivities, with the Easter and Culture Celebration Day that brought lots of fun on the final day of term. With this in mind, we would like to remind you of the way in which we promote and celebrate British Values at The Dormston School and give you an insight into the future celebration days we have planned within our 'Diversity in Dormston' programme.

British Values

According to the DfE, 'fundamental British values' comprise:

- democracy;
- the rule of law;
- individual liberty;
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith.

The teaching of these values should:

- enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of Britain;
- encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in Britain;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation for and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people;
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in Britain;
- encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010. (<https://www.youngcitizens.org/resources/citizenship/british-values/>)

At The Dormston School, we teach these values through a range of assemblies, activities, curriculum areas and PSHE. For your information, here are examples of how these values are covered:

Individual Liberty

- pupils have key roles and responsibilities in school such as Executive Leadership Team, Anti- Bullying Ambassadors, School Council reps, PLC helpers, Peer Mentors, Effort and Attendance Mentors and Sports Leaders;
- within school pupils are actively encouraged to make choices knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment;

- as a school, we celebrate our heritage through the 'Where in the World Map?', Black History Month and our Diversity in Dormston programme. We are now accredited with the 'Stonewall' mark for our work in LGBTQ+ rights;
- as a school we educate young people providing boundaries so that pupils can make choices safely;
- pupils are given the freedom to express their creativity through the Arts;
- through our extra-curricular activities and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices;
- we ensure that everyone feels safe by promoting anti-bullying campaigns and focus on areas such as LGBT issues and racism;
- we hold events such as 'Culture Day' to ensure that all members of society feel welcomed by our pupils;
- GCSE Citizenship contains a module called 'Active Citizenship', where pupils investigate a topic of their choosing and actively campaign to make a change. We study campaigns such as Marcus Rashford and Free School Meals, fathers 4 Justice and the Gay Marriage campaign.

Democracy

- pupils are involved in democratic processes e.g. voting for councillors and mock elections such as the Year 9 voting campaign;
- we mirror real life democracy by holding referendums, such as our mock general election (2024) and mock local elections (2026);
- we have a Religious Studies cohort who take part in the debate competition;
- the School Councils allow all pupils to take part in the democratic process, with all items being debated by SLT;
- GCSE Citizenship follows a module on democracy, studying Parliament, the separation of powers, voting, campaigning and devolution. We have visits from the local MP for Dudley North and local councillors from the Dudley borough;
- the whole school has voted for Youth Parliament representatives previously;
- History look at the election processes in the UK, Germany and America. Additionally, there is a focus in Year 9 when studying the cold War on Capitalism vs Communism;
- Science hold debates on issues such as stem cell research and genetic technologies.

Mutual Tolerance and Respect

- our Citizenship and PSHE curriculum embodies values of mutual respect and resilience by promoting British Values;
- our Humanities curriculum area actively promote attitudes of respect, tolerance, equality and fairness;
- our Religious Studies curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on different of faiths, religions and cultures;
- our curriculum recognises and celebrates the similarities and differences of those in other countries and cultures. GCSE Citizenship follows a module on 'Life in Modern Britain' which studies multiculturalism and society, identity, communities, global citizenship, equality, international organisations and the refugee crisis;
- we teach key celebrations such as Easter, Diwali and Chinese New Year through form notices, Black History Month celebrations and consideration for absences due to religious festivals;
- we take racism very seriously. Any racist action results in sanctions and bespoke workshops to counter the issue. Our 'Diversity in Dormston' programme allows pupils, parents, carers and staff to study multiculturalism, to complete tasks on these matters and to educate us all on how to work together for the best of our pupils;
- staff have received training on multiculturalism
- Year 7 Drama focuses on Friendships and looks at issues with respect;
- Maths celebrate the role models of Alan Turing, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson;
- Music studies African drumming, Bhangra, Calypso, Greek, Palestinian, Israeli, Brazilian Samba and Indian Classical music. We also have a scheme on the Blues which looks at slavery. Displays in both rooms have black and female composers;
- History looks at the Holocaust, Stephen Lawrence etc.;
- Art study artists from different backgrounds and cultures;
- English provide a thorough reading list and have a display of books from authors from different cultures;
- stereotypes discussed and challenged in the 'Is Africa Poor' unit for Year 8 Geography. Being careful of the 'single story view';
- MFL look at breaking down stereotypes and the importance of being a global citizen. With the new GCSE spec, there is a sub-unit in 'My Personal World' where pupils learn about festivals/celebrations in the French/German speaking countries and also learn the vocab for equality, identity, disability etc. In the photocard tasks, we and the exam board routinely use same-sex couples, different types of families, people with wheelchairs and other disabilities as the norm;
- Science have displays of key people from other cultures;

- History has a unit studying the impact of Post War Britain. Focusing on key societal groups: Homosexuality, Racism and the lives of Gypsy's. How have their lives changed under a new labour government?

The Rule of Law

- our school has links with outside agencies including our local School Intervention and Prevention (SIPO) Officer who work with pupils through assemblies and other events;
- we have a clearly structured Positive Behaviour Policy which everyone understands and follows;
- all pupils are aware of the legal system within the United Kingdom and how this is implemented within society through PSHE sessions;
- GCSE Citizenship includes a module on the law and includes visits from the Police, a visit to the Crown Court and a trip to Shrewsbury Prison. 'Rights and Responsibilities' educates pupils on the different types of law and courts, reasons for punishments and the effectiveness of punishments available in the UK;
- Drama study Crime and Punishment in Year 9;
- Computing study - Computer Misuse Act, Data Protection (GDPR), Copyright designs and patents act;
- PE look at rules of games and the consequences of not following them;
- Science discuss issues on the law relating to drugs and sexual reproduction;
- History look at the impact of British colonisation on native cultures. For example, introducing British sports in Ireland and teaching rules on fair play, tolerance and following rules. Comparing this to the impact this has on Irish culture and native sports e.g.) Gaelic Football;
- GCSE History Year 10 – Study Crime, Punishment and Law Enforcement from 1250-Present Day. Analysing comparisons between time periods and what causes change to occur;
- Year 7 Geography study 'Smooth Criminal' looking at what crime is and how space can impact crimes;
- BTEC Health & Social Care study rules around personal and physical health as well as discrimination laws within the workplace, society and within the health care systems.

Whole school posters are placed in every classroom reminding pupils of the values. The weekly PowerPoint that pupils see in form have linked British Values to each awareness day slide and assemblies will take place this term. Our celebration days and 'Diversity in Dormston' programme cover many key areas and allow our pupils to deepen their knowledge, understanding and tolerance of people within society.

Here is a reminder of our celebration days this year:

Month/half term	Celebration
October 20th	Diwali
October FRIDAY 24.10.25	Black History Month
December	Christmas - Winter Wonderland
February Friday 13 th Feb	Valentine's Day
February 27 th / start of March	Chinese New Year
March 6th	International Women's Day
April Friday 27th March	Celebration of Easter and Culture Day
May 22nd	Football day
June 5th Friday	Eid al-Adha
June 26th Friday	Pride
July 26	Summer fete

We have celebrated these with a range of activities, from awareness slides and videos, music, stalls, arts and crafts, food tastings and many more. Our aim is to prepare your child for life in modern Britain with high levels of acceptance and engagement in society and ensure they feel supported and celebrated in their identity.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Yours sincerely

Mrs Downie

Mrs Downie
Head of Year 10