

British values and the curriculum

Modern languages

The Prevent duty requires providers and practitioners to exemplify British values in their practice and to use opportunities to explore British values and to challenge extremism.

British values are defined as including:

“democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.”

This includes complying with the Equality Act 2010 and preventing discrimination against those with protected characteristics:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation.

The Prevent duty also includes an expectation that staff will encourage students to respect other people with particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Behaviour in classrooms, workshops and workplaces

Effective learning and work takes place in classrooms where there is tolerance and mutual respect for different faiths and beliefs as well as respect for people with protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act.

By maintaining high standards of behaviour, including mutual respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs and encouraging learners to respect the protected characteristics, class teachers, lecturers and trainers will be promoting British values.

The law and democracy

The study of modern languages may not initially appear to be subject where British values and law and democracy relating to British values can be taught. However, the study of other languages, nations and cultures will give the opportunity to compare British democratic systems and the British legal system and laws with those that are found in other countries. This comparison will help students to understand their own and other countries' political and legal systems.

Individual liberty

Students can explore individual liberty, which is part of British values, through a study of texts, audio and video. The study of modern languages gives numerous opportunities to explore individual liberty as a concept that applies in different ways in different countries. Students or apprentices will discuss their options before they choose their course, during the course and

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after completing their courses. This provides an opportunity to refer to individual liberty to make choices about developing their careers or progressing in education.

Challenging extremism

The Prevent duty is not intended to stop students or apprentices debating controversial ideas.

If students or apprentices make comments that could be regarded as extremist, staff should encourage the students or apprentices to consider:

- what they have said
- where the views they are expressing came from
- whether the evidence they have is accurate and full
- whether they have received a partial or incorrect interpretation of evidence
- alternative interpretations and views
- whether they need to make a referral to the designated safeguarding lead

Staff should use opportunities to challenge extremist narratives through discussion with students or apprentices. If staff do not feel confident in challenging extremist ideas with their students or apprentices, they should ask for support.

If students or apprentices behave in a way which contravenes the equality and diversity aspects of the code of conduct that they have signed, then this is a disciplinary issue, e.g., refusing to work with a gay student or apprentice or a student or apprentice of a different ethnicity.

Applying British values to modern languages:

Example	
British values	Arabic -- all levels
Rule of law	In Arabic, topics can be chosen that enable discussion of the legal system and which, in discussion in Arabic or English, allow a discussion of the differences between the British and various systems in Arabic speaking countries.
Democracy	The process of facilitating classroom debates in Arabic can be used to link to democracy as they should allow all opinions to be heard in a respectful way. Texts, audio or video can be chosen, and written tasks and discussions can take place – all present opportunities to compare political systems and improve the level of understanding of the British system while exploring the political systems in any of various Arabic-speaking countries
Individual liberty	Group and one-to-one discussions and the use of materials may give the opportunity to discuss the extent of individual liberty in the UK and any of various Arabic speaking countries. Students will also explore choices in terms of future education choices and careers
Tolerance and mutual respect of different faiths and beliefs and	In Arabic classes there will be opportunities to discuss tolerance and mutual respect through class discussions and the choice of materials that are studied. In addition the student code of conduct is a background to student behaviour. Good working relationships in the classroom promote effective

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promotion of the Equality duty	learning. These are based on mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs and compliance with the Equality duty
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British values	French -- all levels
Rule of Law	In French topics can be chosen that enable discussion of the legal system and which, in discussion in French or English, allow a discussion of the differences between the British political system and that found in any of various French speaking countries.
Democracy	The process of facilitating classroom debates in French can be used to link to democracy as they should allow all opinions to be heard in a respectful way. Texts, audio or video can be used, and written tasks and discussions can take place – all present opportunities to compare political systems and improve the level of understanding of the British system while exploring the political systems in French speaking countries.
Individual liberty	Group and one-to-one discussions and the use of materials may give the opportunity to discuss the extent of individual liberty in the UK and any of various French speaking countries. Students will also explore choices in terms of future education choices and careers
Tolerance and mutual respect of different faiths and beliefs and promotion of the Equality duty	In French classes, there will be opportunities to discuss tolerance and mutual respect through class discussions and the choice of materials that are studied. In addition the student code of conduct is the basis for student behaviour. Good working relationships in the classroom promote effective learning. These are based on mutual respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs and compliance with the Equality duty.