



PSHE Takeaway Pack

BRITISH VALUES

British Values

What are they and why are they important?

The British Government introduced the idea of British Values in 2014. They recognised that Britain was a wonderfully diverse place, but there were certain values which united us all as a national community. The four values they listed were:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance

By accepting and engaging with these values, we can develop attitudes which allow us to fully enjoy- and contribute to- life in modern Britain.

A mistake many people make is thinking the British Values are all about the union flag, Big Ben, the Queen and cups of tea! In fact, this could not be further from the truth!

Activity: Look at the images below. They all show things which people may associate with being 'typically' British. But Britain is so much MORE than this! Make a list of photos and images (for example of people, places, foods, activities) which *also* show what our country is like.



Democracy

Democracy is about listening to the needs of everyone and arriving at a decision which most people agree with. For example, we have a general election in the UK every four or five years. Not everyone is going to be happy with the outcome all of the time, but the important thing is that everyone (18 and above) is given the opportunity to have their say.

The democratic process requires careful thinking and understanding of other people's views. Often, it is important to take perspective on an issue before making your decision.



Democracy at Newlands....

You have many opportunities for your voices to be heard. We have a School Council which is made up of students from all year groups, democratically voted in through a system of elections which are normally held in the autumn term. This will return when the restrictions are lifted.



The School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by members of the student body and can genuinely effect change within the School. For example, they successfully led the transition to us having more eco-friendly cutlery in the canteen and helped to broaden the variety of foods on offer. They have also successfully campaigned for new lockers and outside benches.

Activity: Watch this clip about the UK election system and the election which was held in December 2019.

Make a list of 3 ways in which the system is considered to be democratic and fair.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bc78rgUfsFw>

The Rule of Law

The **law** is important because it acts as a guideline for acceptable behaviour in our community.

By following the law, you help protect others and ensure that people are equal. If laws are not followed, you are held accountable (responsible) and may face a punishment.



The Rule of Law at Newlands....

Did you know that The Golden Rules of Newlands were written by you, the students? These rules are important to us as a school community and are followed consistently in day-to-day lessons, free time and in assemblies. The Golden Rules are:



- † Follow instructions from all staff
- † Be polite and respectful to all members of the school community
- † Wear the school uniform correctly
- † Be on time
- † Bring the correct equipment and work to school
- † Respect all property and your environment
- † Try your best

Students are taught the value and reasons behind laws, their responsibilities in upholding them and the possible consequences if laws are broken. We regularly welcome visitors into school from organisations and authorities such as the Police, to speak with you about different issues.

Activity: Throughout PSHE this term, we have often discussed the law in relation to (for example) relationships, gambling and alcohol. However, the laws of Britain cover much more than this!

Can you think of any examples of where the law has been broken? What were the consequences of this for the person involved and the wider community?

Individual Liberty

Individual liberty is the right of British citizens to make choices.

Our individual liberties are not under direct Government control, for example the freedom of speech and the right to make decisions regarding our work and family. However, in making our choices, we must not break the law.

Individual liberty includes our ability to express ourselves freely and hold our own opinions on things like religion, diet and politics.



Individual Liberty at Newlands:

Newlands students are actively encouraged to think about and make good choices in their daily lives; Newlands provides you with a safe and secure environment in which to do this. As a school community, we establish clear boundaries.



However, students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms, whilst being advised on how to exercise these safely and responsibly.

Activity: Reflect on the ways in which you demonstrate individual liberty. How do you use these liberties safely and responsibly?

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Mutual respect and tolerance is about developing an attitude that recognises and respects the individual liberty of others. Even if their choices, beliefs and ways of living are different to your own, or you disagree with them.



Mutual Respect and Tolerance at Newlands:

Newlands places a great emphasis on promoting diversity. Stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures are included in our assemblies, for example.



Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

At Newlands we challenge anyone who expresses opinions contrary to fundamental British Values.

Activity: Watch this clip from Britain's Got Talent.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxPZh4AnWyk>

In what ways was respect NOT demonstrated prior to the audition starting? How do you think this made the singer feel? How could people have been kinder and more respectful?

A word about..... Extremism

Extremism refers to any behaviour in which someone becomes obsessed with something, usually with negative consequences. Extremism often involves religious beliefs and can become a problem in any religion.

Holding extremist views can be worrying. If violence and intimidation is used to promote these views, then this is regarded as terrorism, which is against the law and against British Values.

Activity: Read the case study below, published in The Independent newspaper on 6th November 2020. Consider how Paul demonstrated extremist views, which became acts of terrorism.

Teenage neo-Nazi 'obsessed' with mass shootings jailed for preparing acts of terrorism

Paul Dunleavy, then 16, tried to create a live firearm and offered advice to international extremists

Paul Dunleavy, 17, was jailed for preparing acts of terrorism.

A teenage neo-Nazi who gave international extremists advice on how to make improvised firearms after becoming "obsessed" with mass shootings has been jailed.



Paul Dunleavy, 17, can be named for the first time after a judge lifted a reporting restriction preventing his identity being made public.

He was jailed for five-and-a-half years for preparing acts of terrorism by researching how to convert a blank-firing gun into a live weapon, and providing "advice and encouragement" to others online.

Birmingham Crown Court heard how Dunleavy, from Rugby, communicated with fellow neo-Nazis online and joined the Feuerkrieg Division (FKD) group that was later banned as a terrorist organisation.

In 2018, the story of Shamima Begum was

Source: BBC.co.uk

shown widely on the news and her case became well known in the UK.

In 2015, Shamima and two friends left the UK and travelled to Syria, joining the Islamic State group (IS). She married a Dutch recruit ten days after arriving. She was 15 years old at the time. Her role in Syria is said to have

included the recruitment of other women and assisting suicide bombers.



In 2019, Shamima was found in a refugee camp, having fled the fighting. She had already given birth to two babies who died and was heavily pregnant with a third. Due to her role in supporting terrorism, Shamima's British citizenship was removed by the Government, meaning that she is not allowed to return to the UK to live. Her appeal continues in 2020.

Women in Extremism

According to the United Nations, women are often the first victims of violent attacks; their rights and mobility, as well as economic independence are compromised even more than their male counterparts.

Although we most often hear of men becoming involved in extremist activity, a higher proportion than you may think are women. Often, similar to Shamima, they are recruited to spread extremist messages and help radicalise others.

However, the UN believes that women also have the potential to play a vital role in *preventing* the spread of extremist ideas and activity, helping to shape the values of community members.

How can I protect myself and others from being drawn into Extremism?

Being aware of your own values and being prepared to stand by them is an important first step in remaining resilient. Remember that 'fact' is not the same as 'opinion'. Whatever your religion or your personal views, you are still able to reflect on British Values to help guide you.

Often, young people are radicalised online. Always be aware of how you use technology and follow the simple E-Safety messages shared with you at school. For example, do not speak with people you don't know and never travel to meet anybody you have not met before.

If ever you are unsure, always speak to a trusted adult, including teachers here at school. Your lessons will sometimes cover controversial issues and provide a safe space for you to discuss and explore these. If you are struggling with your feelings of identity or belonging, the SFC could be helpful. We are also keen to help any friends you may become worried about. Here at Newlands, we are trained and equipped to support you. Remember this simple message:

- ✚ **Notice** - look out for your friends and any note changes in their behaviour or the things they say.
- ✚ **Check** - talk to someone you trust like a teacher, a sibling, or a family member about your concern.
- ✚ **Share** - always pass a worry on. Even if it seems insignificant, it might protect somebody's life.

Summary: What do the British Values mean to YOU?

Now that you have reached the end of this pack, take time to reflect on the following questions:

What are British Values? Why are they important?

How are each of the values reflected at home? In my school? In my wider community?

What is extremism and what are the signs? How can I use the British Values and sources of support to keep myself and others safe from extremism, protecting our well-being and making a positive contribution to life in modern Britain?

Activity: Consider what you have read and understood in this takeaway pack. You may wish to carry out a little extra research. Write your own brief definitions of the four values, in your own words. You may include examples to help demonstrate your understanding.

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance

Useful Links

Childline 0800 1111 or www.childline.org.uk offers a range of ways to talk to a trained counsellor, including via email and an online chat service. Calls are free from a landline or mobile.

The NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Police 'Prevent' Information: <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/what-we-do/prevent/>

E-Safety guidelines at Newlands Girls' School:

<https://www.newlandsgirlsschool.co.uk/page/?title=E%2DSafety&pid=328>