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PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2026

Policy Date: September 2026
Review Cycle: Annually
Responsible Body: Trust Board
Policy will be Ratified at the C&S Meeting – 12th January

Version Control

Review Date	Updates
V1 September 2025	
V2 September 2026	

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Statement of intent

Spark Education Trust's aim is to create students who are:

- Independent, determined students who will achieve their potential
- Creative, confident learners who will embrace opportunity
- Enthusiastic, empathetic people who will contribute positively to their community.

Each child in our Trust schools is valued and encouraged to develop spiritually, morally, emotionally and academically in a happy, safe and secure environment.

Some of our Trust Schools are Rights Respecting Schools and this policy is underpinned by our Trust's continued commitment to UNICEF and the UN Convention of Rights of the Child. This policy links directly to the following articles of the UN Convention of the Rights of the child.

Children's rights and responsibilities:

Article 14 Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.
Article 28 All children and young people have a right to primary education, which should be free. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of.
Article 29 Education should develop each child's personality to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures.
Article 30 Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.
Article 31 You have the right to rest, play and take part in cultural and artistic activities.

Spark Education Trust understands the importance of supporting pupils to develop the skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in, and contribute positively to, life in modern Britain. This policy sets out the framework in which our Trust will ensure that it actively promotes the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy.
- The rule of law.
- Individual liberty.
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

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These values are officially taught throughout the curriculum; however, our Trust recognises the importance of integrating the teaching of these values throughout all aspects of pupils' educational life, including through:

- Assemblies and the Personal Development Curriculum (including Focus Days).
- Extra-curricular activities.
- Wider opportunities, e.g. educational visits and work experience in Secondary schools.
- The promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

Ofsted Schools Inspection Handbook, June 2026

- Promoting Fundamental British Values as Part of SMSC in Schools, DfE, 2014
- Relationships and Sex Education: Statutory Guidance, DfE, July 2025.

Roles and responsibilities

Local Governance Committees	• The overall implementation of this policy. • Ensuring that the British values are upheld throughout Trust schools. • Holding executive leaders to account for their performance regarding British values.
Headteacher/Head of School	• Ensuring that all staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy. • Ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods. Disciplining staff who do not uphold British values, in line with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.
Staff	• Modelling behaviour that respects and adheres to the fundamental British values.

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	• Ensuring that pupils feel as though their views count and supporting them to develop positive self-esteem. • Implementing and enforcing this policy and other policies and procedures that reinforce the British values, e.g. the school's individual Behaviour Policy.
Teaching Staff	• Ensuring that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values. • Ensuring that teaching methods are designed to bolster pupils' self-esteem and that all pupils are given the opportunity to speak and offer their views. • Ensuring that lessons discuss, pull examples from and are respectful of a diverse array of cultures.
Pupils	• Treating each other and staff with respect, in line with the Trust school's Behaviour Policy.

Aims and objectives

Through our Trust policies and procedures, we aim to ensure that our pupils have:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the Police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence.
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- An acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Democracy

Pupils will be taught, in an age-appropriate way about the concept of democracy, as well as how democracy works in the UK. Staff will ensure that pupils feel as though their views and opinions matter and will be given opportunities to talk about their feelings, e.g. through pastoral support, and the Personal Development curriculums.

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Pupils in our Trust will also have numerous opportunities to have their views about their school and their education heard, including through:

- Student Voice.
- Student Leadership Opportunities.
- Rights Respecting Steering Groups.
- Whole School Parliament.

Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

The rule of law

Our Trust has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect our schools, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils will be taught these values and the reasons behind laws that are essential for their wellbeing and safety. Trust schools may organise visits from public authorities and local agencies throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.

Pupils will also be taught to understand the importance of their own behaviour, the impact that their behaviour has on others, and the consequences of their behaviour, through the implementation and enforcement of the individual school's Behaviour Policy.

All pupils will be involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding. Pupils will be allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.

Individual liberty

A safe and supportive environment will be fostered throughout our Trust schools, where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, e.g. regarding their extra-curricular opportunities. Pupils will always have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.

Pupils will be taught about their rights, personal freedoms and personal autonomy, and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, as part of the Personal Development Curriculum.

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Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Our Trust will ensure that respect for all individuals, regardless of their protected characteristics and/or backgrounds, is promoted throughout our Trust schools. Pupils will be taught about the importance of diversity in British society, and will learn about different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds throughout the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

Staff members will ensure that they always treat everyone, with respect, and will ensure that pupils learn to treat each other and all members of staff with respect also.

Our Trust acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally-diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity. Our Trust will encourage pupils of all faiths and religions to share their knowledge and experiences with their peers, as freely as they feel comfortable to, to enhance their learning.

Challenging views that go against British values

Our Trust openly challenges opinions and behaviour, demonstrated by both staff and pupils, that goes against British values. Our Trust does not tolerate discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour, and any pupils displaying this behaviour may be disciplined in line with the school's Behaviour Policy. Referrals regarding pupils that may be at risk of radicalisation will be made in accordance with the Prevent Duty.

Staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction at Trust schools and through additional training where appropriate.

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