

British Values and the Prevent Duty

What are British values and how are they used in the setting?

British Values are a set of five values introduced to keep children safe and promote their welfare.

- **Democracy:**
making decisions together and listening to children's and parent's voices. For example: parent questionnaires are completed termly. Children are given opportunities to make decisions about choice of activities and resources they play with and giving opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.
- **Rule of law:**
understanding that rules matter, as cited in Personal Social and Emotional Development. We consistently reinforce our high expectations of children. Children are taught the value and reasons behind our expectations (rules), that they are there to protect us, that everyone has a responsibility and the consequences when rules are broken.
- **Individual liberty:**
freedom for all, for example reflecting on their differences and understanding that we are free to have different opinions. Children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We provide boundaries for young children to make choices safely, through our provision of a safe enabling environment and effective teaching.
- **Mutual respect:**
treat others as you want to be treated. Children gain respect through interaction with caring adults who show and value their individual personalities. Positive, caring and polite behaviour will be encouraged and praised at all times in an environment where children learn to respect themselves, other people and their surroundings.
- **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**
we aim to enhance children's understanding of different faiths and beliefs by participating in a range of celebrations throughout the year. Children have the opportunity to dress-up in clothes and try foods from other cultures and we encourage parents and carers to participate and support.

What is the Prevent Duty?

The Government has defined extremism in the Prevent Strategy as: vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act also places a duty on early years providers "to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism" [The Prevent Duty effective from 1 July 2015](#).

The Department for Education has also produced some departmental guidance advice '[The Prevent Duty advice for schools and childcare providers](#)'.

There is also advice on what is not acceptable, for example, failure to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregating girls and boys '[Fundamental British Values](#)'.

Childcare and Early Years Providers subject to the Prevent duty will be expected to demonstrate activity in the following areas:

- Assessing the risk of children being drawn into terrorism
- Demonstrating that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies
- Ensuring that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Making sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism
- Ensuring children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet.