



# **Statement of our commitment to promoting fundamental British Values in the Academies of Staffordshire University Academies Trust**

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<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>CEO</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Internally – CEO &amp; SLT</b>
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<b>Policy owner</b>	<b>CEO</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Trust Website</b>

### **Purpose**

SUAT is committed to actively promoting British values to ensure that our pupils are fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

The government emphasises that all schools should ensure that they teach pupils about British values of:

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

SUAT academies will take every opportunity to promote these values, and to ensure our pupils:

- Understand the democratic process and how citizens can have a say in decision making.
- Recognise the advantages of living under the rule of law and how law is essential for a safe society.
- Understand that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary and why it exists.
- Understand that the freedom to hold varying faiths and beliefs, including no religious faith, is protected in law, and that it is vital to accept people who have different faiths and beliefs without discriminating against them in any way.
- Value the importance of identifying and combatting extremism.

We promote British values both within and beyond the classroom and these values are at the heart of our ethos.

Although advice on British values, from the Department for Education, is non-statutory the Trust's Academies have an obligation under section 78 of the Education Act (2002), as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils and in society. Staffordshire University Academies Trust (SUAT) believes that we should seek to actively promote fundamental British values in our academies.

SUAT academies will promote our pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. By ensuring our pupils' SMSC development, we will be demonstrating our commitment to actively promoting fundamental British values. In developing this policy, we have been mindful of:

- The Prevent Strategy
- The Teachers Standards
- The Equality Act 2010 Advice for Schools
- Safeguarding policies
- SACRE – Staffordshire Agreed Curriculum for RE

We will enable our pupils to understand that, while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law. The ethos and teaching of our Academies, which we will make parents aware of, will support the rule of English civil and criminal law and we will not teach anything that undermines it. In our teaching about religious law, we will take particular care to explore the relationship between state and religious law. The Trust's pupils will be made aware of the difference between the law of our land and religious law.

Through our provision of SMSC, the Trust's academies will:

- Enable our pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Enable our pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of our country
- Encourage our 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 academies and to society more widely
- Enable our pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in our country
- Further develop tolerance and harmony between our country's different cultural traditions by enabling our pupils to acquire an appreciation of 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 our country

We will develop our pupils understanding and knowledge so that they 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 choose and hold other faiths and beliefs, or none, is protected in law
- An acceptance that other 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

SUAT academies are committed to serving their communities. They recognise the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. They also understand the vital role they have in ensuring that groups or individuals within the Trust's academies are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

We also seek to guarantee that there is no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. SUAT is dedicated to preparing pupils for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and ensuring that our academies promote and reinforce British values to all our pupils.

The Academies in our Trust strive endlessly to ensure that their pupils leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our society.