British Values

British values: what do they do, how do they work and how do they shape our lives?

British values are the fundamental laws that shape Britain, Cheltenham and even my school—Warden Hill. Throughout this text I shall explain all 4 elements of the British values: firstly Rule of Law, secondly Democracy, thirdly Mutual Respect and Tolerance and finally Individual Liberty. Here is a quote from the Department for Education (a branch of the government): “This [set of laws] ensures that young people understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain”. Nevertheless, we shall move on to the Rule of Law.

The Rule of Law is about how laws are put in place so every person is treated the same. It is also about how there are big consequences if we break them. The Rule of Law affects every law, from speeding to damaging a neighbour’s property to drink driving. At Warden Hill, if there is a disagreement, then we talk about it and let everyone’s opinion be heard. Also, if we obey the laws in a classroom, then we will learn much better than if no one was paying attention. Secondly, we shall move on to Democracy.

Democracy is where everyone has a chance to show their opinion via a vote. It actually means “people rule” in Latin. At Warden Hill, we vote for School Council and Eco Council as well as House, Vice and Sports Captains. Thirdly, we shall move onto Mutual Respect and Tolerance.

Respect is a vital aspect of life. The value is about celebrating diversity and treating people how you would want to be treated. This is how the value is shown at Warden Hill:

- There is a wide range of religions in RE;
- Our English units reflect diversity and encourage empathy;
- All adults are treated with respect.

Finally, we shall move on to Individual Liberty.

Individual Liberty is about the freedom to make your own choices. This may seem hard with all the rules, but there are more chances than you think:

- Pitching for a role in the elections (see Democracy section);
- Freedom to do certain tasks (for example making South American burgers and making an app);
- Auditioning for the Year 6 play.
Finally we shall move on to the conclusion.

Now we know how the British values shape our lives. Even when I leave school, I will still remember the British values. I will be individual, not just be like everyone else. I will use my vote whenever I can. The British values will stay with me, right until the end.

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