



British Values Policy

Policy owner	Headteacher	January 2026
Endorsed by	Trustees	
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British Values Policy

1. Statement

At St Paul's Waldorf School, nurturing the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural growth of our pupils, alongside British values, is a shared commitment across our entire community. These principles are not just taught; they are lived and woven into every aspect of school life. Our vision reflects our deep-rooted ethos of fostering reverence and respect for all, ensuring that every child grows in a supportive environment that honours both individuality and community.

OUR VALUES:

COMMUNITY. COMPASSION. CURIOSITY. RESPONSIBILITY.

At St Paul's Waldorf School, we are guided by four pillars that shape our community and inspire our journey: **Community, Compassion, Curiosity, and Responsibility**. These values are the heart of who we are and what we strive to instil in every pupil.

ETHOS:

We are a welcoming community dedicated to holistic, child-centred education. Our creative and experiential "head, heart, hand" curriculum is delivered with artistry and care, embracing the belief that education is a journey, not a race. We celebrate diversity and cultivate reverence for self, others, and the environment in every aspect of school life.

VISION:

Our vision is to be an inclusive, forward thinking and outward facing school that provides an exceptional and continuously evolving Waldorf education grounded in principles of sustainability and biodiversity.

We will provide a beautiful and nurturing environment that meets the needs of every child. We will celebrate the heritage value of our building whilst improving facilities- particularly for the provision of science, craft, and outdoor learning which will be used for our students, families and the wider community.

We will foster a positive and inclusive culture that values and develops the contributions of all staff members, as well as encourage and support a pipeline of well-trained future Steiner-Waldorf teachers. We will establish clear leadership at all levels with the skills and knowledge to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

2. SMSC Development

I. Spiritual Development

We are dedicated to providing pupils with transformative opportunities to deepen their spiritual understanding through a curriculum that is alive with meaning, connection, and purpose. Our approach invites pupils to explore the sacred dimensions of life, not through doctrine, but through experience. By engaging with art, nature, community, and self-reflection, pupils encounter the spiritual not as an abstract concept, but as a living presence woven into their daily learning.

Aim

To offer pupils transformative experiences to deepen their spiritual understanding through a curriculum alive with meaning and connection.

Our approach:

- Brings reverence as part of our educational aims

- Encourages self-esteem, self-knowledge, and belief in our pupils.
- Promotes deep understanding and respect for their own and others' beliefs.
- Explores spiritual values through art, music, drama, history and storytelling.
- Encourages reflection on personal experiences and emotions.

Implementation to support our pupils, we provide:

- Integration of spiritual themes in Waldorf curriculum subjects such as literature, art, and music.
- Lower school Main lessons cover moral fairytales, mythology and Ancient History leading way to a deeper understanding of the history of the main religions
- Regular assemblies cover the modern lives, and celebrations of cultural and spiritual events.
- Morning verse as the opening of the day and lessons
- Opportunities for quiet reflection and mindfulness practices.
- Community participation and engagement in meaningful projects.
- Yearly festival calendar celebrates various cultures and religions

II. Moral Development

We aim to empower pupils to not only discern right from wrong but to embody responsibility and ethical action in the choices they make. Through immersive learning and real-world scenarios, we nurture moral clarity and integrity. Our pupils are guided to think critically, act compassionately, and lead with conscience, preparing them to navigate the complexities of life with integrity and courage.

Aim

To foster students' understanding of right and wrong and encourage them to act responsibly and ethically.

Implementation to support our pupils, we provide:

- Clear behaviour policies and restorative justice practices.
- Themed discussions during circle time and assemblies on moral issues.
- Opportunities for fundraising activities for local and global causes.
- Encouragement of student leadership roles such as school council
- Waldorf curriculum is imbued with storytelling, biographies and fiction exploring moral dilemmas

III. Social Development

We endeavour to equip pupils with the skills and qualities they need to not just function, but to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Through a blend of critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and real-world application, our students learn to navigate complexity with confidence and purpose. We prepare them to be adaptable, innovative, and ethically grounded, ready to contribute meaningfully to society.

Aim

To equip students with the skills and qualities necessary to live and function effectively in society.

Implementation to support our pupils, we provide:

- Opportunities for collaboration and teamwork through group projects and school activities.

- Circle time in Lower school and Assemblies in Middle school
- Encourage active participation in the school council and decision-making processes.
- Engagement with the local community through volunteering (Michaelmas workday)
- Harvest collection to foodbank every autumn
- Career advice and guidance to prepare students for future opportunities.

IV. Cultural Development

At St Paul's we expand students' horizons by immersing them in the rich diversity of cultures and traditions, fostering appreciation and empathy across boundaries. Through experiential learning and cross-cultural dialogue, we cultivate global citizens who honour heritage while embracing the interconnectedness of our world.

Aim

To broaden students' understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity and traditions.

Implementation to support our pupils, we provide:

- Educational visits to museums, galleries, and places of worship.
- Celebrations of cultural events such as Black History Month and Windrush day
- Marking of cultural and religious festivals.
- Integration of cultural themes into the curriculum, including literature, history, and art.
- Opportunities for students to explore and celebrate their own cultural heritage and that of others.
- Waldorf curriculum in main lesson blocks gives enough time to give context and cultural references to every subject/topic taught
- Range of cultural subjects in the weekly timetable include Music and Eurythmy, Drama and recitation of poems throughout

3. British Values

The British Values are:

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

What must be taught?

At St Paul's Waldorf School, our curriculum transcends academics to shape character and conscience. We are dedicated to nurturing self-aware, confident individuals who not only understand their rights and responsibilities but also embody them in action.

- Enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem, and self-confidence.
- Enable students to distinguish right from wrong and respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- Encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and contribute positively to society.
- Enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England.
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to appreciate and respect their own and other cultures.
- Encourage respect for other people and support participation in democratic processes.

Through a holistic approach, we guide students to:

- Develop self-knowledge, esteem, and confidence.
- Discern right from wrong and respect the laws of England.
- Take responsibility, show initiative, and contribute positively to society.
- Gain a broad understanding of public institutions and services.
- Foster tolerance and harmony among diverse cultural traditions.
- Respect others and actively engage in democratic processes.

4. British Values Promotion at Waldorf School

At St Paul's, we are committed to embedding British values into the heart of our educational ethos, ensuring that democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance are not just taught, but lived and experienced through every aspect of school life.

I. Democracy

At St Paul's Waldorf School, democracy is not just a concept, it is a lived experience. We empower students to actively participate in governance and civic life, fostering a deep understanding of democratic principles through real-world engagement.

To support our pupils, we provide:

- Active school council with elected members from Class VIII.
- Weekly Middle school (KS3) assemblies with visiting speakers
- Mock elections and debates to understand democratic processes.
- Engagement with local councillors and MPs to learn about local democracy.
- Opportunities for students to voice their opinions through suggestion boxes and surveys.

II. Rule of Law

At St Paul's Waldorf School, we instil a deep respect for the rule of law as a cornerstone of ethical living and civic responsibility. Through immersive experiences and structured learning, students gain a practical understanding of legal frameworks and their role in upholding justice and equality.

To support our pupils, we provide:

- Clear behaviour policies consistently applied across the school.
- Visit from local police officers and magistrates to understand public institutions.
- Mock trials and debates on legal and ethical issues.
- Curriculum opportunities to learn about the Equality Act and protected characteristics.

III. Individual Liberty

At St Paul's Waldorf School, we champion the freedom to think, speak, and create. Our students explore identity and individuality through art, literature, and dialogue, learning that true liberty is balanced by respect and responsibility. Through debates, creative individual projects, and group work and assemblies we cultivate voices that are informed, expressive, and impactful.

To support our pupils, we provide:

- Opportunities for students to explore identity and individuality through art, literature, and discussions.

- Debates on freedom of speech and human rights.
- Encouragement of self-expression through creative projects and public speaking competitions.
- Participation in social action projects.

IV. Mutual Respect and Tolerance

At St Paul's Waldorf School, we celebrate diversity as a strength and teach that respect is the foundation of community. Through cultural festivals, inclusive assemblies, and assemblies with speakers, students learn to appreciate differences and build bridges of understanding. Our anti-bullying initiatives and hands-on projects foster an environment where every voice is valued and every background respected.

To support our pupils, we provide:

- Celebration of cultural and religious festivals.
- Assemblies and workshops promoting diversity and inclusion.
- Visits to places of worship and talks with religious leaders.
- Anti-bullying initiatives and projects promoting mutual respect and tolerance.

5. Role of Senior Leaders and Key Staff

At St Paul's Waldorf School, senior leaders and key staff are the stewards of our spiritual, moral, social, and cultural mission. Through strategic audits, dynamic assemblies, and active student councils, they ensure that British Values are not just taught but lived. By maintaining a comprehensive portfolio of initiatives and achievements, our leaders model integrity, inclusivity, and excellence, empowering every student to thrive in a values-driven environment.

To support the continued development of our aims:

- Conduct audits and observations of SMSC and British Values provision.
- Facilitate enrichment events and themed assemblies.
- Promote student voice through school council and equality champions.
- Maintain a portfolio of SMSC and British Values activities and achievements.

6. Links to Other Policies

This policy is supported by other school policies, including:

- PSHE Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy

7. Dissemination and Review

This policy will be shared with all staff, students, trustees, and parents through the school website and regular communications. It will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with the school's vision and values.

This policy is tailored to the Waldorf School's ethos and includes specific examples of how British Values can be promoted in Key Stage 3. It incorporates the principles of SMSC development and aligns with the guidance provided in the Shared Values Toolkit.