

Educate Against Hate: Starting conversations about **British values**

These materials are designed to help teachers initiate conversations in the classroom about why British values are important to how we live our lives.

All schools are expected to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

There are a variety of actions that schools can take to promote these values, and the Department for Education has [provided guidance on this](#).

One way that schools can promote these values is by supporting students to explore what would happen if we didn't have these values. This video is designed to be used flexibly to support this kind of activity for pupils in secondary school.

Using the film in class



The film is **3 minutes 22 seconds** long.

It's designed to initiate conversations in the classroom. At several points in the video, a 'pause' icon appears in the top right corner indicating that it can be paused to open a class discussion.

Alternatively, the film is available as four separate videos covering:

- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance

An editable PowerPoint pack accompanies the video(s) with suggested discussion questions for the class.

Definitions

Parliament: The body responsible for making laws, deciding taxes and scrutinising the Government. It is made up of the House of Commons and House of Lords.

MP: The UK public elects Members of Parliament (MPs) to represent their interests and concerns in the House of Commons. MPs consider and can propose new laws as well as raising issues that matter to you in the House.

Councillor: A councillor is someone elected to the local council by the people who live in that area. They make the decisions about the local area, for example, about council tax, dustbins, housing repairs, and social services.

Protected characteristics: These are the characteristics protected in law against discrimination. They include age, gender reassignment, being married or in a civil partnership, being pregnant or on maternity leave, disability, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national original), religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

To note – these films use the phrase fundamental British values however teachers may prefer to use **shared values** or **universal values** if this will be more easily understood by your students.

Where to find out more information

Parliament: Information on how Parliament works is available on the [Parliament website](#).

Local democracy: The Local Government Association (LGA) explains what local government is on [their website](#).

The Equality and Human Right Commission (EHRC) website explains:

- [Article 9 of the Human Rights Act](#) relating to freedom of thought, belief and religion
- [Article 10 of the Human Rights Act](#) relating to freedom of expression.

Britain's youngest Prime Minister: William Pitt the Younger became Prime Minister at 24 years old in 1783. More information on his time in office is available on [GOV.UK](#).

How has democracy changed? Today, people in the UK live in a democracy, with laws made by an elected Parliament but this hasn't always been the case. More information is available in this [BBC Bitesize guide](#).

Follow-up activities

It's important that this is not a one-off conversation with students. There are lots of great resources out there that can help teachers promote British values through the curriculum. Some examples on Educate Against Hate include:

- [Deliberative Classroom on Democracy, Protest and Change](#) – Three KS3 lesson plans with activity instructions and printable student resources as well as background briefing to improve teacher's topic knowledge.
- [Stand Up! Resources](#) – Lesson plan and accompanying presentation to empower young people to act against all forms of discrimination.
- [Shared Space Toolkit for Teachers of RE](#) – Tips, activities and resources devised by teachers to promote value In diversity through RE lessons.
- [Mike Haines Global Acts of Unity](#) – Lesson plan and interactive resource to help students challenge prejudice and stereotypes, developed by anti-extremism activist Mike Haines.
- [British Values Curriculum Map](#) – Activity for mapping British values in a staff meeting created by Tower Hamlets local authority.

Further resources to talk about values in the classroom are available on educateagainsthate.com