

Welfare Awareness Topic: British Values- Democracy

Overview – *The Prevent Duty is the responsibility that all education providers have to discuss the threat of radicalisation with their students (check out our Welfare Awareness Topic on Prevent for more info) To accompany this, it's also important to promote British Values. The Department of Education has specified the four fundamental elements as: Democracy, The Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.*

So, what is democracy? A Democratic Society with a culture built upon freedom and equality, where everyone is aware of their rights and responsibilities. All voices can be heard in the decision-making process. Residents can vote and say how the country is run. Examples include:

- Leadership and accountability
- Joint decision making
- Team meetings
- The right to protest and petition
- Receiving and giving feedback

Being in a democratic country, our voice matters. Our votes guide the decisions made by the government for the best running of the country. Democracy makes the fair call of majority the deciding factor in decision making, rather than the few.

Why is Democracy important?

- **Protecting the interests of citizens.** People get the chance to vote on the key issues affecting their country or can elect representatives to make these decisions.
- **Promoting equality.** One principle of democracy is that all people are equal in the eyes of the law, and every person gets a vote.
- **Preventing abuse of power.** In democracies, people in authority are usually elected by people who vote them in. They are therefore responsible for carrying out the will of those who elected them. If they misuse their position, they won't be re-elected.
- **Creating stability.** Democracies have rules and laws that provide stability and protect human rights. Democratic governments have time to make changes that are in the interests of everyone.

BPP practices democracy by:

- Having elected student reps.
- Encouraging students to feedback
- Giving all students respect in group discussions
- Creating a safe environment where students feel safe to express their views and opinions.

Article/Source

For further information on the history of democracy and how it works please click on the link below:
<https://assets-learning.parliament.uk/uploads/2019/12/How-it-Works-booklet.pdf>

For more information on British Values, you can check out this great YouTube video released by the Education and Training Foundation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9cqHsiE0vM>

Support

If you would like to talk to the safeguarding team about anything you have just read, we will listen without judgement and signpost you to support. If you would like to talk to a member of the Safeguarding Team then please get in touch: safeguarding@bpp.com